



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016

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60P WHERE SOLD

PROJECT CLOSURE LEADS TO FEARS

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE closure of a supported housing project for young people in Oswestry could mean they slip through society's safety net, it has been warned.

Councillor Vince Hunt said he is "bitterly disappointed" following the news announced this week that New Century Court in Oswestry, which houses vulnerable people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless or threatened by homelessness, is to shut in March.

Bromford Housing, which runs the scheme, said it is closing due to a reduced amount of funding. Councillor Hunt, who represents Oswestry West on Shropshire Council and is also on the New Century Court Steering Group, said: "New Century Court isn't just about providing young people with a bed, it's a place where they are mentored to prepare them for work and leading productive adult lives.

"It's provided them with a helping hand during that transition between child and adulthood.

Issues

"The young people who rely on this service have a range of complex and diverse issues, it isn't just young people there who have problems with drugs and alcohol. Not all young people have the option of living at home with their parents, and of course you will never save everyone, but I do think Bromford have done a really good job at New Century Court and I just don't know whether someone else will take on the service but what I do know is young people could slip through the net without this sort of provision."

Danica Riley, one of New Century Court's young residents, said she is anxious about her future following the news it will be closing.

The 19-year-old, who has lived there for almost a year, said: "It's given me a safe place and an opportunity to make friends with the people who also live here. It's taken me away from all the bad stuff I was exposed to."

Jo Fieldhouse, Bromford's head of locality for the Marches, said: "Like many other local authorities, Shropshire Council is facing ongoing financial challenges. In times of such change and instability, Bromford has also had to make decisions about what we can sustainably deliver into the future in light of increasingly reduced funding."

"Bearing this in mind, we have unfortunately decided to wind down our current service at New Century Court in Oswestry as well as the countywide mental health floating support and acquired brain injury support that we offer."

Currently 13 people rely on the service at New Century Court with about 80 supported by its floating services. Councillor Malcolm Price, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for housing, said: "We are working closely with Bromford, other providers and with stakeholders to review housing support services from April 2017 and to ensure that customers' needs can continue to be met in a range of ways."

Group is looking to chalk up more success



Liz Dando from Chalk in Oswestry takes a look at some of the logs which the organisation will be using for a new fuel project. Photo: Alan Evans.

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help support community projects in Oswestry.

Leaders of Chalk, a community interest company, already have 23 volunteers but are keen to attract more. The company runs two charity shops in the town, and the proceeds all go into community projects.

They include craft workshops where people are taught to restore and up-recycle furniture on a budget.

One of their main programmes is Alert, which has a goal of giving families and people living in poverty furniture received through donations.

"We have just helped our 100th family," said Gemma Cassin, one of the community interest company's directors.

The Cabin House community garden is another activity – a scheme that allows people to come together and learn how to grow their own food and harvest it.

Chalk has been given two acres of land to use as it wants to. Anyone interested can go along on Thursdays between 10am and 4pm.

Transport can also be arranged if people can not get out to the garden.

There is also Chalk Chops, a project that is currently under development.

The aim is to sell logs to people in the community for a reasonable price and then use the money to provide free fuel to people living in poverty conditions.

"We have already given three families free wood and will carry on helping families

in need throughout the winter," said Gemma. "In order to do this we are appealing to pallet companies and other wood related businesses to donate their wood waste to Chalk."

Chalk is also making plans to host its open house Christmas Day meal for lonely and vulnerable people for a third consecutive year.

Gemma said: "We are always happy to help in whatever way possible, to help those in need of assistance and to receive any kinds of donations."

People can find out more about the organisation and the projects it runs by calling into the community interest company's shop in Leg Street.

Alternatively information can be found by visiting www.chalkkc.co.uk

ENVIRONMENT

Council to stage a public meeting over recycle plans

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to fight plans to close or downgrade Welshpool's household waste recycling centre.

Welshpool Town Council's planning committee has voted unanimously to oppose the plans announced last week and will call a public meeting in November.

Councillors have written to Powys County Council opposing any changes to the centres in Welshpool and Newtown and are also contacting all local town and community councils in Montgomeryshire which would be affected by the proposals.

Powys County Council has announced consultation on options to save money by reducing the number or opening hours of the household waste recycling centres.

Councillor Graham Breeze, chairman of the town council's services and property committee, proposed the council's opposition to any service reduction.

At a meeting of the town council's planning committee on Wednesday last week Councillor Breeze said the recommendations were flawed and panic measures, while the town's mayor Councillor Steve Kaye said the county council should look elsewhere for savings. The town council will also call on Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies and Assembly Member Russell George to support their objections to the scheme and will invite Powys County Council to attend the public meeting in the Town Hall next month.

● Rates – See Page 20

CRIME

Abduction bids spark police alert

PARENTS are being warned not to let their children walk to and from school alone following reports of two attempted abductions in the Oswestry area.

The first incident took place in Weston Rhyn while the second took place in Oswestry.

The Weston Rhyn incident took place on Wednesday last week and involved an 11-year-old boy who was walking home from school.

The second attempted abduction was reported to have happened in Oswestry on Tuesday morning.

● Parents – See Page 2

INSIDE

Club will build up imagination



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Attempted abduction claims spark warning to parents

Report by Naomi Penrose

PARENTS in the Oswestry area are being warned not to let their children walk to and from school alone following reports of two attempted abductions.

The first incident took place in Weston Rhyn while the second took place in Oswestry.

The Weston Rhyn incident took place on Wednesday last week and involved an 11-year-old boy who was walking home from school.

The incident happened when a man in a black car called out and falsely claimed that he had been asked to pick him up by the boy's mother.

Detectives say the boy shouted "no" to the man and ran home, with the car seen to drive off in the direction of Trehowell Lane.

The boy had been walking home in the Long Croft area after getting off a school bus at around 3.55pm when he was approached.

Shropshire Council alerted parents across the county using its text messaging system.

The council's crime prevention officer Ian Bartlett said: "There has been a recent attempted abduction of a pupil walking home from school in the Weston Rhyn area. The police are involved and are advising pupils and students not to walk to or from school alone."

Parents of all children at primary and secondary schools across Shropshire received the message.

Police say the man who approached the boy is described as white, aged in his late 20s with short, straight brown hair and spoke with a Liverpool accent.

He is also described as being tall and thin and was wearing a black jacket with a white logo on it. The car is believed to be a Renault Clio and is described as black with a silver triangle logo on the front.

The second reported incident is said to have happened in Longueville Drive in Oswestry on Tuesday morning.

Parents in the area were told that incident happened at about 7.55am.

The man in question is described as white, short dark hair, wearing a black short sleeved top and had an English accent.

He was driving a black van with tinted windows and the registration number was blacked out, according to reports.

Anger voiced over town centre vandalism



The graffiti at the train mural in Oswestry's New Street which has attracted widespread criticism

VANDALS have daubed graffiti across a town centre mural created to brighten up the area.

The white spray painted letters have appeared on several walls in Oswestry.

In New Street the writing is partly across a colourful painting of a locomotive, created five years ago by artist Anna Roberts.

Funding for the work came from the Oswestry Footfall project with a grant from the store which rents the building.

Oswestry's town mayor is one of many speaking out against the vandalism in the town centre.

Councillor Paul Milner said: "The number of hours of hard work, time and effort

that was put into this mural in New Street and somebody does this. It is very disappointing."

Graham Mitchell said the vandalism was beyond words while Carmel Clarke said: "Hopefully they will be caught and made to clean it, also the other places they did it as well."

Kay Kynaston said she hoped that the vandals had been caught on CCTV spray painting the various walls in the town.

The mural, titled 'New Tracks' was created to commemorate Oswestry's links with the railways.

The town was once one of the major engineering centres for the Great Western

Railway and was the home of the Cambrian Railways.

The locomotive which dates back to the Cambrian Railways time between 1864 and 1921 is pulling carriages in which sit passengers looking out of the window and reading the newspaper.

Research was undertaken to ensure correct designs, colours, costumes, motifs and logos, in keeping with Cambrian brand and the Edwardian period. Emblems on the carriages and black locomotive include Prince of Wales feathers and the company logo of heraldic shield incorporating a halved St George's cross with Welsh Dragon recognising the company's border location.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cemetery oak tree is to come down

AN oak tree growing in a north Powys cemetery is to be felled on safety grounds, the county council has confirmed.

The oak tree in the middle of Maesgwastad Cemetery in Welshpool is to be felled after an in-depth survey found that the amount of live wood found in the trunk falls below current safety limits.

Work to remove the tree will take place next from Monday. The cemetery will be closed to members of the public while the work is taking place but will be open if no works are taking place.

Councillor John Powell, cabinet member for cemeteries, said: "This decision has not been taken lightly but we have a duty to ensure anyone that visits our cemeteries are kept safe."

Chopper used in police search

A POLICE helicopter was used in an overnight search for a missing person in Mid Wales on Thursday last week.

Dyfed-Powys Police confirmed that the missing person had been found "safe and well", with help from the helicopter based in Hawarden, Flintshire. Sharon Reynolds, spokeswoman for Dyfed Powys Police, said: "Police received a report of a missing person in Berriew on the evening of Thursday. Following a police search overnight the missing person was found the next morning." On Thursday night, the force tweeted: "Apologies for any disruption while we search for a vulnerable missing person in the Berriew area with assistance from @NPAS_Hawarden (352)."

Astronomy talk for group's members

NORTH Shropshire and Borders Smallholding and Country Living Group will have a talk on astronomy at their next meeting.

Roger Jones will talk on what can be seen in the night sky during autumn and winter. The talk is at Llanyblodwel & Porthywaen Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday next week and as usual anyone who is interested is very welcome to come along. The cost is £3 for visitors which includes a cuppa and cake. For more information call (01691) 656516.

Elderly man is injured in road collision

AN elderly man was critically injured in a crash near Oswestry.

Three patients were taken to hospital following the crash, which happened at about 6.50pm on Thursday last week between the Halton roundabout at Chirk and Ruabon.

The Wales Ambulance Service confirmed one of the injured motorists was an elderly man who was airlifted to the Royal Stoke University Hospital in a "critical condition".

North Wales Police described the man's condition on Friday as "life threatening".

The collision resulted in the road having to be closed in both directions for about six hours.

In a separate crash a teenage girl was taken to hospital after the car she was travelling in crashed with a lorry and overturned near Oswestry on Thursday last week. The 15-year-old suffered a back injury when the silver Suzuki she was in left the A5, rolled over and ended up in a field near West Felton at around 3.50pm.

Police officers are now appealing for any witnesses to come forward.

The girl, who was sat in the rear of the car, the driver and a second passenger were all hurt in the collision that happened near Oswestry Golf Club. West Mercia Police want to speak to the driver of a lorry carrying logs and the driver of a green vehicle with two white bonnet stripes.

Libraries are set to stage events

LIBRARIES in and around Oswestry will be staging Halloween events this half-term holiday.

They will be celebrating the birthday of the much loved Winnie the Witch book character with hilarious stories and activities.

Events are for all primary age children, they are free but people need to book as space is limited.

They will be in Gobowen Central on Monday from 2pm to 3pm, Oswestry Library on Friday next week from 2pm to 3pm and at Ellesmere Library on the same day from 10am to 11am.

Oswestry Library is also hosting a production by The Oddsocks Theatre Company all about William Shakespeare's Best Bits on Thursday next week from 10.30am to noon for all ages.

This event is also free but pre-booking essential.

Inquest hears of tragic heart monitor mix-up

Report by Sam Morris

A FOUR-month-old baby died after falling ill at her home having been born with life-limiting needs, an inquest heard.

Ivy Morris died in the emergency unit at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on May 3.

She had become unresponsive during a feed at the family home in Lilac Grove, Oswestry.

She had been born in Telford with life-changing needs after suffering from hypoxia – a lack of oxygen reaching the tissue.

The machines which were supposed to be monitoring her heartbeat during labour were in fact picking up on the heart rate of her mother, the inquest heard. There was also a delay in the second stage of labour.

This meant it would not be possible to identify an abnormal heart rate in Ivy during her birth. An inquest into Ivy's death held at Shirehall on Wednesday last week heard the machine used for monitoring the foetal heartbeat using the Doppler shift theory has three common errors.

Andrew Tapp, consultant obstetrician gynaecologist and chairman of the root cause analysis report investigation into the incident, said: "The Doppler device can make errors. It sometimes can double the rate and it can do the opposite and half the rate. The third error is it picks up the biggest noise in the room."

"When we did the root cause analysis we recognised that Ivy was born in a very poor condition which would not have been predicted by the apparent continuous heart rate monitoring which appeared to be normal and did not show any characteristic features of a problem labour."

A post-mortem examination recorded the cause of Ivy's death as being from bronchopneumonia. Severe perinatal hypoxic-ischaemic brain damage was also listed as a contributory factor.

Mr Tapp went on to say that an action plan has been put in place across the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust to ensure no repeat of the incident.

Shropshire coroner John Ellery deferred his conclusion to a later date but said: "Following complications at birth Ivy was born with life-limiting needs. The underlying concern here is those looking after Ivy thought they were monitoring her foetal heartbeat but they were monitoring the maternal heartbeat."

Pool marathon held as tribute to Guy



Chris Smout after the 24-hour poolathon in memory of his friend Guy Evans

THE close friend of a young man who died suddenly has raised £2,000 by taking part in a 24-hour poolathon in his memory.

Chris Smout played 24 hours of consecutive pool against 24 different people on Friday into Saturday at The Keys in St Martins in memory of 25-year-old Guy Evans.

Mr Smout said he believed the poolathon was a fitting tribute to his friend, who was known by many as Sharky because friends said he was a "pool shark".

Mr Smout said: "I really couldn't have managed it without the support of the community. It was a real

community effort because throughout, I had a minimum of 10 people with me, cheering me on and keeping me going.

"That's the type of community St Martins is."

Mr Smout said the fundraiser was also well supported by people from far and wide, with people travelling from Mid Wales to compete against him.

Wayne "Rhino" Smith – the number 1 trickshot player in the UK – also gave up an hour of his time to play.

Guy's funeral will take place on Tuesday at 2pm at St Martins Par-

ish Church. The family welcomes any flowers or donations to Alder Hey Children's Hospital and the air ambulance.

An inquest on Tuesday heard Guy died at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on October 9 after suffering several falls.

The day before he had been out drinking with friends and suffered several falls, causing injuries to his head.

His death was due to a subdural haemorrhage caused by trauma.

The inquest was adjourned until January 26 when it will resume at Shirehall in Shrewsbury.

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Tickets are £1 each or £4 for strip of 5. Closing date is 5th November.

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- 70cl bottle of Jagermeister.
- £20.00 Sweeney restaurant, Oswestry gift card.
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- £10 google play voucher.
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The raffle is ongoing up until 5th November 2016 when the draw is.



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Councillor Steve Davenport

Fracking decision raises concerns

THE approval of a site for the fracking of shale gas in the north of England has set a dangerous precedent for the future of the countryside, it has been claimed.

Steve Davenport, Shropshire Councillor for St Martins, said wells being sunk on greenfield sites in rural areas could have an impact on aquifers and the water supply.

He made the warning after the Government granted permission for the extraction of shale gas from a site near Blackpool.

Mr Davenport is the Shropshire councillor responsible for the Dudleston area near Oswestry, where plans to drill for gas were dropped after applicant Dart Energy's licence expired.

The application at Dudleston was met with huge opposition from local residents and also from campaigners from across Britain.

An anti-fracking camp was set up on farmland where the exploratory drilling would have taken place.

Councillor Davenport said he was worried about the licence that had been granted for Lancashire.

"This shouldn't be happening in our small country," he said.

The councillor added: "This could lead to lots of wells being sunk and we don't know the effect it will have on the aquifers and the water supply of our country."

"If fracking is as safe as they say it is then it should be done on brownfield sites on the edge of cities, not in the countryside."

"Sinking wells in the countryside would be to turn green fields into brownfield sites."

Police hunt armed raiders who targeted town store

Report by Sue Austin

POLICE are hunting two armed robbers who threatened two shop workers with knives during a raid at a convenience store.

Two men burst into the Co-operative store in Castle Street, Oswestry, and demanded money from the till while holding knives. They were disturbed by a customer walking into the shop, but managed to flee with money. Two male cashiers were shaken but unhurt in the robbery.

Force spokeswoman Anne Tugwell said that two men entered the shop at about 7.20pm on Sunday. "They threatened two cashiers with knives as they demanded money from the tills," she said. "The cashiers handed over some cash but a customer entered the store, disturbing the offenders and they made their escape."

One of the offenders is described as being about 6ft and the other slightly shorter. Both were wearing black or dark blue hoodies, black tracksuit bottoms, balaclavas and gloves. No-one was injured in the incident. Police officers have conducted house to house inquiries and are studying CCTV for information, Ms Tugwell said. She added: "They would like to hear from the customer who was in the store at the same time as the offenders, or anyone else who has information which would help them with their enquiries."

In a message on social media the two young cashiers, who did not wish to be named, said: "Thanks everyone we are both shook up but we're okay thanks for all the support." A spokesman for the Co-op said: "Armed intruders entered our Castle Street, Oswestry, store at approximately 7.20pm on Sunday. CCTV coverage has been shared with police, who are investigating, and we would appeal for anyone with information to come forward. The store re-opened on Monday morning and we apologise to the community for any inconvenience caused during its temporary closure."

New post for church man



Jonathan Hodgkins and his wife Caroline and sons Sam, Ben and Seth

AFTER three years as a mission worker in Oswestry attached to Christ Church, Jonathan Hodgkins and his family have moved to new pastures.

Jonathan is a minister in the Presbyterian Church of Wales and his new post is an industrial chaplain in Flintshire.

As part of his work he will also oversee four churches - one in Chester and three north of Mold in the villages of Mancot, Goltyn and Northop Hall.

The new post started earlier this month. Jonathan said: "We have enjoyed our time in Shropshire very much and have

loved living in Oswestry. I was employed to work in Christ Church on a three-year contract and hard as it may be to believe those years have come and gone.

"We have made some good friends whom we will be sorry to leave".

After his final service at Christ Church there was a farewell lunch held to say goodbye and the family was given a gift along with the thanks of the congregation for the three years they had been in Oswestry.

Christ Church is currently looking for a minister having been in inter regnum since the last incumbent, Nick Nicholas, retired.

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Fraudster must pay back £1.4m or face prison term

A FINANCIAL advisor who defrauded clients out of almost £1.4m has been told to "put his money where his mouth is" and pay them back – or face jail.

Former solicitor David Vaughan Jones, 77, was a founder member of the evangelical church in Newtown and some of the complainants were friends and associates including contacts from the church.

Jones was due to stand trial over the coming four weeks but admitted 24 of the 39 charges which was accepted by the prosecution at Mold Crown Court on Tuesday. Judge Nicolas Parry deferred sentence for six months and he has effectively been given until April of next year to come up with just under £1.4 million to pay back his victims.

More waste recycled in new scheme

A NEW recycling scheme is being rolled out across the Shropshire border.

People living in Chirk and the Ceiriog Valley, near Oswestry, saw the scheme start this month.

More plastics and even textiles can be recycled by Wrexham Council under its revised waste service.

Plastics such as margarine tubs and yoghurt pots, will be taken and residents will be able to recycle clothing and footwear.

All households can recycle all types of cardboard weekly either in their wheelie box or in their blue bag. Excess cardboard can go in another container or carrier bag – not a black bin bag – and it will be collected.

Items that cannot be recycled from the kerbside are things like crisp packets, sweet wrappers, bread bags, cling film, plastic film, polystyrene/foam, nappies, food and drink cartons, carrier bags, light bulbs, pyrex, soil, rubble, toys, ceramics, electronics and pet or animal waste.

Food waste will be collected weekly in the lockable food caddy and only garden waste should be placed in the green bin.

Councillor David Bithell said: "Everyone should have received a letter confirming what their bin day will be and a calendar which will give details of changes over the Christmas period due to the bank holiday.

"There may also be a change of routine for which coloured bin is taken for some residents meaning they may have two weeks of green bin collections."

Club will build imaginations



Library assistant Blair Gardiner with some of the Lego bricks. Photo: Alan Evans.

THESE colourful plastic bricks really have stood the test of time and now they have been given their own weekly club in a library.

Oswestry Library – with the help of Oswestry School students – has launched a Lego Club for children and young people to create and play with the interlocking bricks.

The free club is held in the library every Thursday, between 3.30pm and 4.30pm, run by Oswestry School students volunteering in the library.

Library branch manager Debbie Marais said the club is all about letting youngsters' imaginations run wild.

She said: "The club is really just a great chance to allow the children to be creative and use their imaginations."

"Some weeks there will be a theme, other weeks it's a chance for them to create what they want to create."

"We're extremely grateful to the students from Oswestry School who run the club as part of their community action programme."

"We're now asking for people to donate any unwanted Lego they may have in order to ensure there's enough to go round and the club is enjoyable for children of all ages."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Tuesday was a massive day in the Breeze household – the day Mrs May's Government started a weekly pension payment into my struggling bank account.

I thank her and her team for kindly arranging the new deposit so smoothly, but there are few thoughts of retirement yet as a redundancy-wrecked private pension scheme means this scribe will need to scrounge on for a good few years yet.

There have been some days along the way when achieving the ripe old age of 65 looked unlikely, particularly the dark one back in 1998 when the dreaded big-C was diagnosed. But achieved it has been, and thanks to the skills of a very talented surgeon I'm still here 18 years on to tell the tale – and ready to spend some of that hard-earned pension.

But the same can't be said for many thousands of women who had planned to retire at 60 only to find Government changes robbed them of their dream cruises and holidays in exotic lands. And believe me it's been a hot topic in the Breeze house this week for an aggrieved Mrs B. Women have been badly "short-changed" by the decision to accelerate the rate at which their state pension age is equalised with men. It was due to rise from 60 to 65 between 2010 and 2020 but the coalition Government decided to quicken the process in 2011, bringing in the change in 2018.

Put yourself in the position of a woman born in 1954 and mapping out their life to retire at 60 in 2014 and having to rethink their plans at very short notice. It was bad enough when the first change was announced and the acceleration was a devastating blow, meaning they would have to work beyond 65 – believe me I know. When opposition started to grow to the plans Government said that the policy decision was designed to remove the inequality between men and women. But it could be strongly argued that women have been short-changed because of when they were born. That's not my kind of equality. You do have to recognise the fact that changes had to be made. We're all living longer and that means pulling more money down from the Government pot. It doesn't take a mathematician to work out that the figures won't balance for long.

And while difficult decisions had to be made women were certainly not given enough notice that changes were being rushed through and that meant not enough time to alter life plan arrangements.

So has enough been done to fight for women's right on this issue? Probably not. One member of the Breeze household is smiling this week while the other is looking and sounding a little disgruntled. Looks like I may have to share.



The county receives more than 70 per cent of its funding from the Welsh Government



The number of people aged over 75 is projected to increase from 11% of the population to 23%



Falling pupil numbers have already had a considerable impact on Powys's schools

Population decline could have dire consequences

Powys's meagre share of Welsh Government finance looks set for further cuts, writes KAREN COMPTON

FUNDING pressures faced by Powys County Council are likely to increase because of a significant fall in population numbers predicted over the next 25 years.

New figures issued by the Office of National Statistics project the county's population to fall from nearly 133,000 in 2014 to 122,400 by 2039 – the largest fall in Wales – with a significant increase in the percentage of over 75s during the same period.

Cabinet member for finance, Councillor Wynne Jones, said: "The latest figures show a significant projected fall in the overall population of Powys which could have a very serious impact on the county's level of local government services in the coming years."

"The county receives more than 70 per cent of its funding from the Welsh Government and that funding is based on a formula that is heavily based on population projections, with key indicators particularly linked to school pupil numbers."

"A projected fall in the number of births per year from 1,200 to 900 is particularly worrying, any fall in the under-16s will have a disproportionate impact on the council's annual funding and have a severe effect on future school funding levels."

"Powys has experienced a succession of disappointing financial settlements in recent years and news that population projections show a decline in numbers will do little to change that trend."

"Falling pupil numbers have already had a considerable impact on our schools



The number of births per year is projected to fall from 1,200 in 2014/15 to 900 in 2038/39

and their financial sustainability and today's figures will do nothing to help."

"Unfortunately, the area where Powys is projected to see an increase, the percentage of the population the over-75s, does not influence the funding formula despite the cost of providing services for them being a significant part of the council's budget."

"The council will continue to lobby the Welsh Government for a fundamental review of the funding formula to ensure that the county has adequate funding to deliver services in the years to come. These population projections

make that work all the more important," he added.

KEY POINTS

- The Powys population is projected to fall by 7.7% from 132,700 in 2014 to 122,400 in 2039. This is the largest projected fall among the 22 Welsh local authority areas.

- It is projected that over the 25 year period the number of males in the Powys population will fall by 7.7% and the number of females will fall by 7.8%.

- The number of births per year in Powys is projected to fall from 1,200 in 2014/15 to 900 in 2038/39.

- The number of deaths per year in Powys is projected to rise from 1,500 in 2014/15 to 1,800 in 2038/39.

- Net Natural Change (the difference between the number of births and deaths in the county) is projected to increase from -300 in 2014/15 to -900 in 2038/39.

- Powys is projected to become increasingly old, with people aged 75 and older increasing from 11% of the population to 23%.

- Net inward migration is projected to continue with 100 more people moving into Powys than moving out each year.

WORKING FOR YOU



Politicians become involved in a broad range of issues, some specific to the constituency, some of national and international significance, but some based on personal experience and interest. Several of my broader interests revolve around ill health and social care. As examples, last week I sponsored a two hour meeting of RESEC (Research into Specialist Elderly Care) in Parliament. And today, I write this column immediately after a highly successful reception held near Westminster Abbey by the Motor Neurone Disease Society.

Motor Neurone Disease is very cruel. It is fatal, attacking nerves in the brain and spinal cord. It leaves people living with MND locked in a failing body, progressively unable to talk, or move and finally unable to breathe. The disease affects up to 5,000 people in the UK at any one time. About six per day die of MND. I have been president of the Montgomeryshire branch of MND for many years now. Our aim is to raise awareness of the disease and campaign to support those living with MND and fund research into finding a cure.

Today's reception was to highlight concerns, designed to influence Government Minister Penny Mordaunt, who joined as a key speaker. There are two issues causing concern. Firstly there is the requirement for those with MND to undergo regular re-assessment for welfare support. Been a bone of contention for years with people living with degenerative conditions. The Government has announced it intends to legislate to exempt progressive diseases from the need for re-assessment. This must apply to MND. It's a disease without a cure, and there's no 'getting better'. It's a slope which leads only one way.

The second big concern is the Government's intention to devolve social care payments to local authorities or in the case of Wales, to the Welsh Government. I must admit I support this, though it will inevitably lead to variable standards of service. To argue against this is to argue against devolving powers from central government. It's an issue needing further discussion.

I also enjoyed meeting Prof Jane Hawking at the reception. She was married to the brilliant scientist, Stephen Hawking for 26 years. I felt that I knew her already, having watched The Theory of Everything, the film based on her book outlining her experience. She may not look like the actress who played her in the film, Felicity Jones. But she still exudes the intensity and strength, based on her faith, which enabled her to cope with the extraordinary pressures that MND meant for her as well as her husband.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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Letters

Accept the scientific facts on culls

THE badger culls are an indiscriminate slaughter of our wildlife. Why do they not accept the scientific facts? Culling badgers will not eradicate Bovine TB.

Badgers are not the problem; they are the victims of farmers moving infected cattle.

The badger has become a scapegoat. Bovine TB started in cattle and was spread to many other wildlife and then back to cows. A very small percentage of badgers do carry it, but so do a range of other animals including deer, rats, cats and dogs – none of these are hunted and cruelly executed in the name of containment.

Even if they were totally responsible for

it, it would still be morally wrong to warrant this Government-funded genocide. Yet again Tory MPs like Owen Paterson think this is a good plan, despite polls showing over 90 per cent of the population are against this disgusting policy done to appease the powerful farming industry.

The natural balance of our countryside threatened, solely for political gain. Another dirty deed done behind closed doors.

Why do they not test all the badgers that have already been killed for TB? Why not test the thousands of 'roadside victims' for TB? We all know why – because only a minute number would have it. Speak to

wildlife rescue charities that rescue badgers for years like the Wildlife Aid Foundation. It has been running for 36 years and have never had a badger in with TB.

There is only one way this mad policy will stop, and that's when, hopefully people will eventually see the real price of modern milk and dairy production costs too much!

The Government should financially support dairy farmers to vaccinate cattle, promote better husbandry and restrict cattle movement. Otherwise milk may become as unpopular as battery farmed eggs!

MIKE CLAYDON
Much Wenlock

Photograph of refugees does not reflect the true picture

THAT photo again. In the 70s an environmental study concluded that 53 million was the maximum population this island could support to be sustainable, and, as we all know, we are well over that limit. So, yes, "Breaking Point" was an apt title.

If the photo was one of genuine refugees, I could understand the furor, but it isn't. It is simply a picture of an army of young, strong and determined young men headed for Europe. Where are the women, children and elderly in this photo? Where is the straggled desperation usually evident in pictures of refugees, carrying their pitifully few possessions?

The uproar and fury this photo provoked came, as usual, from the out of touch, self righteous intelligentsia, who work everything out in their heads and never come from the heart. This was yet another of their stage-managed attempts to scupper the Brexit movement. Those at the cutting edge, the poor, the dispossessed, who had lost jobs or simply quality of life, voted to leave. They voted on their gut instincts, and never mind all the head stuff the liberal lefties were churning out. "Closet Brexit" voters brought the result these people never expected. How many of us are actually "closet" sympathisers of this photo, but too afraid to say so, because of the inevitable backlash?

Let this photo stand for what it genuinely is: a pragmatic statement about what is happening in our world today.

WILL KNOTT
Shrewsbury

Impact on NHS still not clear

MONTHS have now passed since the decision was made that the UK will be leaving the European Union. Since the referendum there has been much talk, but little clarity about what happens next.

The Royal College of Nursing remains particularly concerned about the impact on the nursing workforce. Hospitals and care homes in this area and across the UK rely on the huge contribution of nursing staff from both inside and outside the EU.

Figures show there are currently more than 33,000 EU-trained nurses registered to practise in the UK. The continuing uncertainty about what Brexit means for the future of EU nursing staff already working here and those interested in doing so threatens to worsen a shortage of nurses – as does the withdrawal from next year of the NHS bursary for nursing students.

We also continue to hear about cases of abuse directed at EU nursing staff following the referendum and the assumption by some that they should have left the UK. Such prejudice is reprehensible. There must be zero tolerance of any such abuse.

The RCN will ensure that the nursing voice is heard as negotiations on leaving the EU begin and we will support our members who are affected.

SUE WARNER
Chair
West Midlands Board
Royal College of Nursing

Cadets were doing their bit for environment



Oswestry Army cadets John Thomas, Michael Evans and Mark Haycocks set off on a bird box hanging exercise in July 1987. In an effort for the European Year of the Environment, around 20 Shropshire Army cadets from Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Ellesmere were at the Nesscliffe Army training range installing scores of bird boxes around the 1,300 acre site.

Unkempt look of roadside verges spoiling the view

WE are privileged to live in such a picturesque part of the country, but the roadside verges spoil it.

They look so wild and unkempt. I just wonder what overseas visitors make of it.

The council seem to have abandoned its responsibility.

The hogweed stand four feet high and looks horrible, yellow ragwort may look lovely but is out of control it is spreading everywhere. Bracken is another pest that's taking over.

Now we have machines that do the work of many men in no time and selective weed-killers, yet it's a mess.

When the council eventually cut the verges it also chops up the litter making a sickening sight that makes me ashamed.

Another foreign invader is Himalayan balsam which has spread up the waterways, with its purple flower it may look pretty but it stinks when it's dying and will clog up our streams.

RON JONES
St Martins

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Honours are just a big farce

DOES anyone agree with me that the recent honours given out to George Osborne and Samantha Cameron's hairdresser, among others, just goes to show what a farce these honours are?

Some athletes who attended the Olympic Games in Rio are now up for honours.

In my opinion it is nonsense to award someone a knighthood when they have chosen their career path and enjoy what they do.

PEARL DUNBAR
Shrewsbury

Do these people not understand our democracy?

THE majority of the UK voted to leave the EU and won the referendum, so what is the problem. Certain people have tried all sorts of things to put people off, from blaming pensioners for being spiteful to the young people for voting to leave the EU.

We are still getting the scaremongers warning that tens of billions of pounds could be wiped off the economy if the UK leaves the single market. Why use 'could' are they not sure?

Institute of Fiscal Studies say the UK will be worse off if it fails to negotiate full membership. Then we have the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan who wants free movement, and suggests waiting to trigger Article 50 until 2017, until the French and German elections are out of the way. I cannot remember them considering the UK.

The UK needs to stand on its own two feet, and the sooner the better. I am wondering if these people really understand the word democracy, or are they all just bad losers?

J LEWIS
Pattinham

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NEWS IN BRIEF

AM gives support to child charity

MONTGOMERYSHIRE AM Russell George has pledged his support for Childline as new figures show Welsh children contacted the helpline more than 7,600 times last year.

Mr George joined Childline's founder at a special event in the Senedd. Dame Esther Rantzen visited as part of a tour to mark the NSPCC-run helpline's 30th anniversary.

Mr George said: "I was pleased to be able to attend the special event to mark the 30th anniversary of Childline, a fantastic charity for children who require advice and support in dealing with a range of issues from low self-esteem and unhappiness to bullying, exam stress and relationships. After discussing the work of the charity with Dame Esther, I now have a fuller understanding of the issues which can affect some young people and I was amazed to learn that volunteers at two Welsh bases in Cardiff and Prestatyn undertook a total of 22,000 counselling sessions with children across the UK in 2015/16."

Building firm's warning on jobs

BUILDERS' merchants Travis Perkins says it is close 30 branches, affecting 600 jobs, after warning over "uncertain" trading.

At present, the locations of the job losses are not known.

Travis Perkins said the branches would shut across its trade business, while it also plans to close 10 smaller distribution centres after reviewing its plumbing and heating divisions.

The company, which employs 28,000 staff group-wide, said it hoped to relocate some of the affected staff to other sites. The chain has branches across Shropshire, including at Ludlow, Market Drayton, Much Wenlock, Newport, Oakengates, Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Whitechurch, plus just over the county borders in Leominster, Newtown and Welshpool.

Attraction supporting hospice by donations

Report by Sue Austin

A TOURIST attraction that does not charge an entry fee is encouraging visitors to make a donation to a children's hospice instead.

The British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry is one of Shropshire's most popular attractions and will be hoping to raise money for Hope House Children's Hospice in the run-up to Christmas.

The ironwork centre is free to enter all year round, but will now be accepting donations to the charity.

Managing director Ben Knowles, said: "So many visitors ask why we are free, the most common question is 'do you accept donations?'"

"Given this wonderful spirit of wishing to give something back, we've decided to positively encourage visitors to express their pleasure in offering a donation in the run-up to and throughout the Christmas period, optimizing the season's great history of being the season of giving.

"It's mystifying how we've not thought of this before.

"It's plain to see that visitors to the centre want to support us and translating this into donations for Hope House is a complete no-brainer."

Vanessa Thomas, from Hope House, said: "The British Ironwork Centre has been a huge supporter of Hope House since the day it opened.

"We are thrilled they have come up with this brilliant idea.

"Hopefully people will be feeling generous in the run-up to Christmas, safe in the knowledge that every pound they donate will make a real difference to Hope House and the vital care and support we provide to local children and families."



Ben and Sophia Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre with Vanessa Thomas, centre, from Hope House

Trick or treat plea by care firm bosses

A CARE provider is calling for a ban on trick or treating the elderly.

Abacare first launched its campaign to ban trick or treating in 2014 and received lots of support so the care company aims to spread the word further this year.

Peter Angelides, CEO of Abacare, which provides care across Oswestry, said: "Halloween is a very child-orientated holiday and while we encourage youngsters to have fun, we also urge them to think about any elderly relatives or neighbours they might have as the celebrations can cause fear in them. It can be especially frightening for any elderly people living alone who may not want to open their doors to strangers on a cold winter evening.

"Not opening the door can result in a nasty 'trick' being played, which is equally distressing for older people. We want people to be more aware of the elderly and vulnerable this Halloween and instead of trick or treating on them, perhaps people can check they are warm and doing ok. We will be providing our service users with posters to display in their window to deter potential trick or treaters from knocking on their doors."

Festive craft event is set to be held

HOPE Church in Oswestry is having a Christmas craft event next month.

The event will allow people to try their hand at making Christmas decorations for their tree, and items for their home to add that special festive touch.

The craft night takes place on November 12 from 7pm until 9pm, at Hope Church, Laburnum Drive in Oswestry and costs £5 per person.

To book a place contact Susan. turner109@btinternet.com or www.hopechurchoswestry.org.uk or telephone (01691) 655546.



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Two in line for pride awards



Nicola Hill from Oswestry donated a kidney to husband Adrian, transforming his life



Kelli Smith from Gobowen was a lifesaver at the Derwen College

A GOBOWEN life-saver and an Oswestry woman who gave her husband a very special gift are in the running for a prestigious prize.

The Chronicle's sister paper The Shropshire Star is once again running its Pride of Shropshire awards programme.

The programme celebrates the achievements, passion and bravery of people in the county.

Report by Naomi Penrose

Gobowen mum Kelli Smith has been short-listed in the outstanding bravery category of this year's awards.

Kelli didn't think twice before diving in to save the life of a swimmer who got into difficulty at the pool where she works as a life-guard.

Brave Kelli carried out her life-saving effort at the pool at the Derwen College in Gobowen.

She brought him to the surface and then gave him CPR, saving his life.

Kelli was nominated for a Pride of Shropshire award by Andrew Harris, deputy chief executive of Derwen College, which caters for people with disabilities.

The student Kelli rescued returned to college after a week's recuperation and continues to attend Kelli's swimming lessons.

Also in the running for the outstanding bravery award is Oswestry woman Nicola Hill.

She transformed her husband Adrian's life by donating one of her kidneys.

Adrian, who was born with one kidney, needed dialysis treatment three times a week for four hours at a time.

But thanks to Nicola donating one of her kidneys, the future looks much brighter indeed.

But not content with transforming her husband's life, Nicola is now raising money for the British Kidney Patient Association.

They have raised nearly £5,000 with a race night and treasure hunt as well as sending out teddy bears for people to guess the names.

Shropshire Star readers have been asked to vote for their winners.

The chosen finalists along with the category sponsors have been invited to a special awards ceremony at Shrewsbury Town FC on November 28 and the winner in each category of the scheme will be announced during the course of the evening.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Chance to meet air crew members

PEOPLE are being invited to meet members of the crew of the Wales Air Ambulance.

Families are invited to Welshpool Airport to meet the air crew that patrols the skies at an open day next month.

Helen Thomas, from the charity, said: "We are offering the chance to meet the crew, view the helicopter, learn about the charity and how we are able to save lives across Wales with some of the most advanced emergency medical equipment and techniques."

"Please come along on November 2, between 10am and 2pm, meet the charity team, enjoy a cuppa and cake and find out how you could help us support this worthwhile charity."

Welshpool Airport will also be opening its doors, so visitors can feel free to enjoy a look around the airport.

For further information, e-mail: helen.thomas@walesairambulance.com or call 07811 270925.

Officers 'should get more powers'

CALLS have been made for police community support officers to have more powers in a bid to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Welshpool Town Councillor Estelle Bleivas said she believes the town's problems with anti-social behaviour would be fewer if officers were able to tackle troublemakers by being able to take action such as imposing fines.

She said: "I've been told by the police that the role of community support officers is to gather intelligence but adding that other tier seems stupid."

"Surely if they were given more powers and dealt with the people committing these offences there and then, and make an example of them, that would surely do something to tackle the problem?"

Assembly Member is in the pink for fundraiser

Report by Naomi Penrose

MONTGOMERYSHIRE Assembly Member Russell George has shown support for women affected by breast cancer by dressing up in pink at the National Assembly for Wales.

Supported by pupils from Montgomery Church in Wales Primary School, who were on a school visit to the Senedd, Mr George joined fellow Assembly Members in wearing it pink to encourage people across Wales to get involved and help Breast Cancer Now towards their ambition that, by 2050, everyone that develops the disease will live.

Wear it Pink is back for its 15th year, calling on supporters across the country to add a flash of pink to their wardrobe to raise money for Breast Cancer Now's life-saving breast cancer research. Wear it Pink raises close to £2 million each year for world-class research into breast cancer. Mr George said: "I'm delighted to have been able to support Breast Cancer Now's Wear it Pink Campaign at the Senedd with the support of pupils from Montgomery Church in Wales Primary School who helped me to support the event whilst they were on a school visit to the Senedd. Through cutting-edge research, Breast Cancer Now are tackling the disease from all angles to ensure that, by 2050, everyone that develops the disease will live." Baroness Delyth Morgan, chief executive of Breast Cancer Now, added: "It's wonderful to see so much support from AMs for wear it pink. It's a great opportunity for friends, co-workers and families across Wales to have some fun, wear something pink and show their support for those affected by breast cancer."



Russell George with youngsters from Montgomery Church in Wales Primary School

Council buys equipment in £450k move

NEW JCB equipment that will be used for highway maintenance works across Powys has been purchased by the county council.

A capital investment of almost £450,000 has seen Powys County Council purchase JCB equipment including skid steers loaders with various attachments as well as mini excavators and ride-on rollers. Each plant item also has its own Ifor Williams trailer.

The equipment will be used by the council's highways team for routine maintenance works including patching, sweeping, ditching and drainage works.

The investment is part of the council's plant and vehicle review project, which has been ongoing for the last 14 months. A detailed review of essential plant equipment and vehicle requirements, as well as the way the council carries out routine highway maintenance works, has taken place as part of the project. The project has seen the council auction off old plant equipment that was no longer fit-for-purpose. The money made from the auction of the old equipment has been re-invested into the new assets.

Theatre group postpones event

MEMBERS of Buttington Musical Theatre Company has announced they have had to postpone their next production.

The group has had to postpone its production of The Pajama Game.

The performances were due to take place at Buttington and Trewhem Community Hall from November 3-5, the theatre group said.

The postponement is due to personal problems of some cast and support members.

New dates will be published when confirmed.

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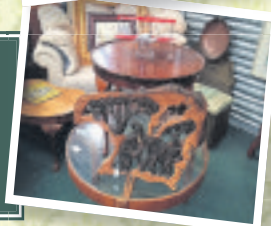
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Sir Stelios opens new bus service

EASYJET owner Sir Stelios Haji-Iounnou has moved into Shropshire – with his easyBus.

The businessman says he wants to take on other coach companies by offering services to Manchester Airport for as little as just £2 each way.

There are 16 services each day, seven days a week on the Telford to Manchester route.

The new enterprise has brought 15 new jobs to the county.

The operation is the brainchild of businessman Andrew Martin, who runs the franchise on behalf of Sir Stelios.

He directs easyBus services from Telford, calling at Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Wrexham and Chester on the way to the airport.

Mr Martin said he was initially offering 10,000 coach seats for £2 from the five destinations en route, with returns booked online for £4.

Oswestry passengers get picked up at Mile End services on the edge of the town.

Man stole saw hearing is told

A MAN broke into an outbuilding alongside the A5 and stole a saw worth £280, a court heard.

Leon Roberts took the saw at Glyn-dyrdwy, near Llangollen, last March. Llandudno Magistrates Court was told. The 23-year-old, of Park Hall Caravan Park near Oswestry, changed his plea to guilty when he appeared at court. James Neary, prosecuting, said Roberts had been traced by CCTV which had been handed to police. Ceri Evans, for Roberts, said that at the time he had a drugs debt and went off the rails.

Roberts was sentenced to 18 weeks prison, suspended for a year, with 150 hours of unpaid work, and a 30-day rehabilitation activity under a community order.

He must pay £994 in costs.

School's sixth form set to expand course offer

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE courses on offer at The Marches School's sixth form in Oswestry is to expand.

The sixth form opened in 2013 and now accommodates more than 160 students in a modern, purpose-built centre.

Bosses say students applying to study in the sixth form from 2017 can now apply to study courses from the 25 A Levels on offer and, new for 2017, the sixth form will be adding BTECs at Level 3 to its course offering.

Claire Buckle, head of sixth form, said: "We are delighted to be able to enhance our course offer so extensively for 2017 to enable us to increase opportunities for a wider range of students. Students who apply to the Marches Sixth Form will be able to blend a pathway that suits them and their individual career aspirations. All applicants to the sixth form have a personal one-to-one interview with me and are given expert careers advice to ensure they choose the right path for them."

"Excellent transport links, including private minibuses operated by the school, means that students travel from surrounding areas including Wrexham, Chirk, Ellesmere and Powys to attend the sixth form. The addition of the new BTEC courses will mean that the sixth form is now accessible to an even wider range of students from Oswestry and beyond."

The sixth form will be adding new courses to its A Level offering for 2017, including economics, film studies and English language.

The BTECs will be equivalent to one A level and include applied science, engineering, business studies, ICT, creative and digital media, sport and performing arts.

For more information contact Claire Buckle on (01691) 664400.



Head of sixth form at The Marches School in Oswestry Claire Buckle

Action called over village parking issue

DRIVERS parking half on pavements in a village are putting pedestrians, particularly those on mobility scooters and parents with pushchairs, at risk.

Weston Rhyn Parish Council is writing to West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion about the amount of motorists who park up on pavements both in the village centre and residential areas.

Councillors in the village, near Oswestry, say they include local residents who want to get their vehicles part way off the road.

Parish clerk Roger Dyke said that the problem was across Weston Rhyn – including High Street, Station Road and Brookfields and also in Chirk Bank.

"Councillors were worried that there could be an accident if people with pushchairs, in wheelchairs or on mobility scooters have to go onto the road to go around the vehicles," he said.

The parish council will also write to the local police inspector and the chief constable to ask for a greater police presence to help discourage drivers from mounting the kerbs.

Spiritual centre set to meet again

OSWESTRY Spiritual Centre will welcome Pauline Hedges to its demonstration night this evening (Thursday).

Pauline will be using coloured ribbons to work with people before linking with the spirit world.

The event takes place at the Cambrian Room in the Memorial Hall in Oswestry.

It runs from 7.30pm to 9pm, doors open at 7pm and there is a £3.50 admission cost.

Spiritual and reiki healing will be available after the demonstration.

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Vodka remains the taste of choice for many drinkers

Commercial feature

Everyone likes a refreshing drink when they are out and about enjoying themselves in Welshpool and Oswestry.

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The foundation for many classic cocktails, vodka can be made from grain, molasses, potatoes and even grapes, and with the rise in higher quality mixers for your V&T and the trend for consuming vodka on the rocks, there's a shift from quantity to quality.

Indeed, award-winning online drinks retailer 31dover.com has seen a huge uplift in the popularity of craft vodkas with people looking to the 'smaller guys' with an appreciation of the process involved.

Also, contrary to what has been predicted by the likes of Brexit and



Rubyblue Potato Vodka, 70cl, available from 31dover.com

recession worries, they are still seeing strong sales in the premium category.

And with drinker's tastes growing more adventurous, it's a similar story in bars and restaurants.

"Inherently, vodka is a spirit that has been stripped back to remove the flavour. But now we're seeing a trend

the other way. Big-name (brands) have a place, but then you've got craft brands which take more care in giving these flavour characteristics and profiles, which is great and really needed," says Anthony Peart, development bar manager, The Hand & Flowers – the only UK pub to be awarded two Michelin stars.



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Advice is given out on cold callers

RESIDENTS and businesses in Powys are being warned by the county council to be cautious of doorstep salesmen offering to install triple glazed windows and carry out fascia board works.

The warning has been issued by the council's Trading Standards Service after it had received reports that the salesmen had targeted homes.

The service is not advising residents to say no to all doorstep calls or phone calls.

If says if people receive an official caller on their doorstep then always ask to see identification. If there are any doubts, then ring the organisation to check that the caller is genuine.

Residents who are in contact with vulnerable and older residents should remind them of this advice from time to time.

Campaign seeks to find families

A CAMPAIGN to find new families for some of the most vulnerable children in the region has been launched.

National Adoption Week kicked off on Monday and the Mid and West Wales Adoption Service is supporting the campaign.

This year's theme is #SupportAdoption and at the heart of the campaign is the aim to demystify the adoption process while reflecting the challenges of adoptive parenting and encouraging people to consider becoming adoptive parents. Cllr Graham Brown, Powys County Council's cabinet member for children's services, said: "Many people rule themselves out as they do not think they have got what it takes. The truth is that all kinds of people make good adoptive parents and it doesn't matter whether you are married, single or co-habiting, with or without children of your own."

Call (01874) 614035 or email adoption@powys.gov.uk for more information.

Hospital staff's loyalty to the NHS is recognised by bosses



Bosses at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital congratulate the staff for their long service to the NHS during a presentation of certificates and vouchers

A HOSPITAL is celebrating eight of its staff who between them have amassed almost 250 years of NHS service.

The members of staff, with their roles ranging from medical secretaries and orthopaedic surgeons to physiotherapy, work at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

They were recognised for their combined 242 years of service by the hospital's chief executive Mark Brandreth

and chairman Frank Collins. The staff were presented with certificates and vouchers. Staff receiving the award included, Tracy Dunbar, Jayne Edwards, Dr Mark Garton, Wendy Jones, Claire Mooney, Sue Sayles, Richard Spencer Jones and Pam Tarkenter.

Paying tribute to the staff, Mr Brandreth said: "These amazing people have dedicated their working lives to the NHS. Some here have worked in a number of different hospitals, but half of them have worked 30 years right here in this hospital. We couldn't let

this achievement pass us by. I'm humbled by the knowledge and experience they bring here every day and honoured that they continue to provide a high quality service."

Mr Collins said: "More than 240 years of experience in one room - how often can you say that in an organisation? It's a fantastic achievement to have a 30-year long career in the NHS."

"What's also amazing is that when they've come to RJAH to work, they've stayed, some of them, for the majority of their working lives."

"No award we give can come close to thanking them for their commitment to caring for our patients, but we've had a go," Dr Garton, who has worked at the hospital in Gobowen for the last six years but has worked the length and breadth of the UK, said: "I can't believe it's been 30 years. It's been a positive experience and generally got better from one year to the next. I've worked in all sorts of places up and down the country and RJAH is a unique hospital, with a very long fine tradition."

Fraudster is jailed over cash scam

A FRAUDSTER who conned elderly women out of nearly £100,000 by placing adverts in a high society magazine has been jailed for four years and nine months.

James Condliffe placed an advert in Britain's longest-running women's weekly 'The Lady', offering care for pensioners in need.

Vulnerable Margaret Beader, 78, from Hampshire, was duped by the fraudulent scheme and gave the conman her £75,000 life savings.

Part of Condliffe's cunning ruse was to treat Mrs Beader as a 'grandmother' - having her over for dinner at his home, visiting her three times a month and calling her every day.

He promised the wheelchair-user a complete care package and a quaint Welsh cottage home as well as taking her to see land at Pen Y Rhos, Llanerfyl, near Welshpool, where he lived.

However Condliffe, who has a previous fraud conviction, never owned the land, never had planning permission and was being chased by debt agencies. FrauFraAt Portsmouth Crown Court, Mrs Beader sat in her wheelchair and watched on as Condliffe was jailed for four years and nine months.

Condliffe also duped another pensioner out of £18,000 in a similar fraud.

She trusted him and felt he was like a grandson as he got her to pay towards an imaginary quaint Welsh cottage they could stay in.

Officers found paperwork linked to another victim, Shirley Drake-Brockman, 81, from Portishead, Somerset, who lost £18,000 in two bank transactions when she responded to another of Condliffe's adverts in March this year.

Condliffe took the unusual step of reading out a letter instead of his barrister Rory Keene mitigating on his behalf.

Over a video link from prison in Winchester, he said he'd taken a 'deal' with the prosecution to admit two counts of fraud, but added he cared for his unwell sister, looked after children and was going to lose his fiancée.

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Dr Hana is a true hero for health

Report by Naomi Penrose

A DOCTOR described as a 'team player who puts her patients first' has won the latest Health Hero Award at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Dr Snezhana Kostova - affectionately known to both patients and staff as Dr Hana - has won the monthly award after being nominated by her colleagues in the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI) at the hospital.

The award, was presented to Dr Hana, who is a clinical fellow in MCSI, by chief executive Mark Brandreth.

"All the staff say how fantastic Dr Hana is," said Rebecca Warren, ward manager of the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries. On the day that we decided to nominate her, we had a patient praising her for how caring she is, and how lovely she is. We get good feedback about Dr Hana all the time.

"She displays all the qualities that you would expect from a doctor but, just as importantly, she displays all the staff values as well. Dr Hana always goes the extra mile to ensure patients are happy and is a real team player."

"Dr Hana has this extraordinary smile that is permanently on show. This smile is infectious. If you were in hospital you would want to be cared for by Dr Hana."

"She's been great with the patients and is also keen to get involved with the outside activities of the unit, such as the walks we organise."

Dr Hana added: "I was very pleased and very shocked to be told I had won this award. It is a lovely thing to be recognised by your colleagues for the job you do."

"I must say that we have a great



Dr Hana receives her Health Hero Award from Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth

team here on MCSI and I couldn't do anything without them. They've helped me a lot, especially at the beginning when I came here just over a year ago. I didn't know the systems or anything, and they gave me great support." Mark Brandreth was delighted

to present a Health Hero Award certificate to Dr Hana, who becomes the first doctor to win the award since it was launched earlier this year.

Previous winners include a healthcare assistant, a theatre nurse and a receptionist.

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Members appeal by village group

AN art group based in a village near Oswestry is appealing for new members.

Ruyton XI Towns Art Group meets at the Victoria Rooms from 9.30am on the first and third Monday of the month.

Sessions are flexible and there is a new theme each week. Alternatively, participants can take along their own project.

Organiser Mary Fitzpatrick said: "Our group is a great opportunity to try something new, experiment with different media and make friends."

She added: "We have plenty of cake on offer at the meetings as well."

Sessions cost £3 and there is no need to pre-book, people can just turn up.

For more information call (01939) 260175.

Woman is taken to hospital after crash

A WOMAN was taken to hospital on Monday after her car rolled over and ended up in a field near Oswestry.

Emergency services were called to the B5009, at Whittington, at about 7.55am.

Four fire engines were sent to the scene from Oswestry and Wellington, and West Midlands Ambulance Service also attended.

The 24-year-old driver managed to get out of the vehicle herself and is not believed to have been seriously injured.

Meanwhile, a 31-year-old man was treated by paramedics for injuries after appearing to have fallen from his push bike on Monday.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service was called to the scene at the roadside near David Davies & Sons Funeral Directors at Upper Church Street, at 1.13pm.

A spokesman for the ambulance service said: "It appears that the man fell off his push bike and has a leg injury."

Choir's singing day at town church hits the right note

SINGERS and prospective singers from all over Shropshire recently joined Cantiones Choir at Christ Church in Oswestry to spend a day learning some beautiful music.

Organisers said it was particularly positive to welcome people to the day who had either not sung for a long time or, in one case, never sung with a choir.

Singing not only offers a wonderful opportunity to join together as music lovers but it also has well-proven health benefits, the organisers said.

Professor Graham Welch, Chair of Music Education at the Institute of Education, University of London, has studied the developmental and medical aspects of singing for 30 years.

He found that the health benefits of singing are both physical and psychological.

He said: "Singing has physical benefits because it is an aerobic activity that increases oxygenation in the blood stream and exercises major muscle groups in the upper body, even when sitting."

"Singing has psychological benefits because of its normally positive effect in reducing stress levels through the action of the endocrine system which is linked to our sense of emotional well-being."

"Psychological benefits are also evident when people sing together as well as alone because of the increased sense of community, belonging and shared endeavour."

The day proved so enjoyable that the choir has increased its membership as a direct result.

Discussions are taking place about the possibility of running this and other similar events more frequently, in order to encourage more people to sing not just for good health but



Musical director Gerry Howe and accompanist Christopher Symons led Cantiones Choir's singing day

a greater sense of community. Cantiones was founded in 1982 by Michael Smith, the then organist of the Parish Church of St Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry.

Under its original name "Cantiones Sacrae" the choir comprised 15 voices and set its sights on performing some of the more challenging music in the chamber choir repertoire.

Before long it swelled to well over 20 voices and concerts were given as far

as Chester and Shrewsbury, as well as an appearance at the Llangollen International Festival.

Cantiones dropped the "Sacrae" from its title in the mid-nineties when its repertoire widened to include more and more of the quality secular music available.

Over the years Cantiones has had no more than a handful of musical directors. Michael Smith was followed by Geoffrey Talbot, then Chris Ar-

gent, Christopher Symons and John Clenaghan, and currently it flourishes under the baton of Gerry Howe, in post since 2002.

At the present time Cantiones is considered to be towards the top of the premier division of choirs in the area.

For further information about the choir people can contact choir secretary Pam Parish on (01691) 655358, or email her on pam.parish@talktalk.net

College is changing to meet needs

BOSSES at Oswestry's North Shropshire College say the organisation is "continuously adapting" to meet the needs of local employers.

Jackie Doodson, principal of the college, said: "Our college is a college for the community; we ensure students get a fantastic experience here and nurture them to shape their future with us."

"Our staff are vocational specialists with expertise and experience in their subject area."

"Students go on to secure their first choice at good universities, go on to employment in their chosen field or start their own business."

Bosses say the college continuously adapts and changes to meet the needs of local employers and prospective students, introducing curriculum that is "both interesting and of vital importance to the local economy".

Most recently the college has invested in construction facilities which has led to a growth in students studying plumbing, bricklaying and electrical studies. New for this year, the college is working in partnership with Fusion Arts and The Centre, Oak Street to deliver music technology, a course that local prospective students asked for.

Mrs Doodson added: "Our achievement rates are excellent for vocational provision, we are thrilled our level 3 core achievement rate is above the national average. The Department for Education 16-18 performance tables show that those learners who study a technical level qualification at NSC leave with an average point score of a distinction. Our retention is also above the national rate, we pride ourselves in supporting students to thrive on programme, every student has a personal tutor to guide them on their learner journey with us."

In addition to supporting students with UCAS applications, giving careers advice and support with student life, the college also has a full time sports maker who engages students in a wide variety of activities throughout the academic year.

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Art is something to shout about

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire Russell George has launched an exhibition at the National Assembly for Wales of a painting of the Montgomery town crier by talented local artist Daniel Yeomans.

Mr George hosted a group of Montgomery residents at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay for the launch event which saw the unveiling of a painting of their town crier, Sue Blower, in full ceremonial regalia.

Prominently displayed in the Senedd Oriel, the painting will be on display throughout October. Following the launch event, Mr George said: "I was delighted to be able to host the Montgomery town crier, Sue Blower and residents from Montgomery at the Senedd to unveil the wonderful painting of Sue by Llandyssil-based artist, Daniel Yeomans."

"We were even treated to a special proclamation from Sue, complete with bell ringing, describing the creation of the painting by Daniel."

"Sue is a wonderful ambassador for Montgomery and it was my pleasure to showcase original art from Montgomeryshire and support Daniel who is such a talented local artist."

"I hope that Daniel's career goes from strength to strength and I look forward to seeing more of his outstanding work."

Mr Yeomans added: "I am very grateful to Russell for sponsoring the exhibition of my portrait 'Montgomery Town Crier' at the Senedd."

"It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase my work."



Artist Daniel Yeomans, Montgomery town crier Sue Blower and Russell George AM for Montgomeryshire with the artwork

"Sue is a fantastic local personality and I hope that I have reflected the passion she has for her role as Montgomery town crier in my painting."

"After the exhibition in the Senedd, the painting will return to my studio and I hope, eventually to Montgomery,

where residents and visitors can enjoy viewing it as I have enjoyed painting it."

To learn more details about Daniel Yeomans's work, people can visit his website at www.danieljamesyeomans.com.

Second inquest to take place over recruit's death



Four young Army recruits died at Deepcut Barracks in Surrey

A SECOND inquest has been ordered into the death of a young soldier at Deepcut barracks 21 years ago, bringing relief for his family. News that Private Sean Benton's death is to be re-investigated was also welcomed by Des and Doreen James from Llanymynech near Oswestry, whose daughter, 18-year-old Cheryl, also died at the Surrey Army base. Private Benton, 20, from Hastings, was found with five bullet wounds to his chest in June 1995. At a High Court hearing in London

last week, Mr Justice Collins said that a considerable amount of fresh evidence had come to light which cast "some doubt" on the correctness of the original finding. The young soldier's mother, Linda, used the Human Rights Act to access evidence held by Surrey Police before her death last year. Now his twin brother, Tony and sister, Tracy Lewis, are continuing to press for the truth about their brother's death. The original inquest, which the 20-year-old's

family said took less than two hours and heard evidence from six people, recorded a verdict of suicide. Mr James said he spoke to Mrs Lewis during a telephone call from the court after the decision. "Tracy and Tony are obviously very relieved," Mr James said. "We knew their parents, particularly their mother, Linda, who had fought so hard for justice for Sean." Earlier this year, Mr and Mrs James endured weeks of trauma as the second inquest into the

death of their daughter was held. The inquest ruled that Cheryl had taken her own life. Mr James added: "This is only the beginning for the family and I hope that the Army and the Ministry of Defence review how they conduct the inquest into Sean's death." Four young Army recruits died at the barracks. Mr James said that the families were still pressing for an inquiry into the culture of bullying at the barracks.



Doreen and Des James have been campaigning for a full inquiry into Deepcut

Young experts are the stars of the show at food festival



There was plenty of fine food available at Hamper Llangollen Food Festival



Food lovers lined up to enjoy some of the great fare at Hamper Llangollen Food Festival

Report by Sue Austin

A TALENTED young chef from Oswestry who has cooked for big names such as pop star Morrissey and the late Wales football manager Gary Speed took centre stage at a top food festival.

Jack Hatley, the head chef at Gale's of Llangollen, demonstrated his butchery skills at the two-day festival and prepared a lamb shawarma.

Jack, who has previously worked in the kitchens of the Chester Grosvenor, also teaches regularly at Upstairs Downstairs, a cook shop in Oswestry which runs cookery lessons in everything from bread making to Greek or Italian cooking.

He said: "It's my first visit to Hamper Llangollen and I'm really, really impressed. The variation and quality of the products on display is amazing."

Also there was one of Britain's youngest sommeliers, Dan Davies, 21, who has advised stars such as Sir Tom Jones, actress Jennifer Lawrence and Coldplay's Chris Martin on which wine to choose with their meals.

Dan, the son of celebrity chef, Dai Chef who was raised in Chirk, has attended the festival every year since he was just five years of age and now works as the head sommelier at the four rosette Stovells hotel at Chobham, Surreyhelped.

At Hamper Llangollen, he helped his dad present cookery demonstrations by talking about wines as well as sampling the delights of the food festival.

He added: "The Hamper Llangollen food festival is a wonderful event. I have been coming with dad and the family since I was a little boy and it's always an event I look forward to."



Jack Hatley with some lamb ready to use for his dish



Dan Davies with chair of the event Colin Loughlin and Guy Cliffe from Gales of Llangollen

Good causes to benefit from pub fundraiser

AN annual fundraising harvest festival supper and auction will take place at a pub near Oswestry tomorrow (Friday).

The Navigation Inn in Maesbury Marsh holds the event every year and each year the inn raises money for charity through the meal and the auction.

In 2014 £1,200 was raised and shared between Hope House, The Isabelle Lotie Foundation and Cancer Research UK. Last year the supper and auction raised £1,500 for Cancer Research UK.

This year the money raised will be for the Maesbury Marsh Defibrillator Appeal and The Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. The Defibrillator Appeal aims to raise enough money for a defibrillator to be sited externally at The Navigation Inn for use not just by customers but by the walkers, boaters, cyclists and canoeists who use the canal and its paths throughout the year. Midlands Air Ambulance is a well known charity and The Navigation was delighted to hand over more than £1,700 to them at the end of September this year through other events held at the venue. The Harvest Supper takes place at 7pm with a three course meal - garlic mushrooms to start, slow braised carbonnade of beef for main course and toffee apple pudding for dessert. The cost is £14.95 per person, with a discretionary £5 added to each meal for the evening's charities.

The auction follows the meal at 9pm with all money raised going to the charities. Donations for the auction will be gratefully received. Lots already include a horse drawn boat trip with fish and chips for up to 12 people, a Christmas turkey and fresh fish. Customers are welcome to come along for any or all of the evening. Call (01691) 672958.

Author set to promote book

AN author is visiting an Oswestry business on Monday to promote her new book.

Glad to be Dan is the first children's novella for mum of two and happiness expert Jo Howarth.

She will be at Baby Bird Cafe in Oswestry for a book reading and signing event on Monday at 11am.

The book follows the story of a little boy who is feeling very sad and the book is aimed at helping youngsters to be mindfully happy.

The story includes a range of mindfulness exercises to help young children learn to cope with different, sometimes difficult emotions such as sadness and anxiety.

"Almost three quarters of teachers feel young people are under more pressure now than two years ago," says Jo. "I couldn't be more excited to see this book come to life. Feeling supported and learning the techniques to conquer different feelings are key to building resilience and happiness in our children."

Jo, a mindfulness practitioner, also runs The Happiness Club whose mission is to help people be happy. She penned Glad to be Dan with celebrated storyteller, children's writer and current Disney Winnie the Pooh Laureate for the North West Jude Lennon.

Businessman is cleared by jury

A BUSINESSMAN has been acquitted by a jury of groping a 15-year-old girl at a party.

Simon King, of Oswestry, who runs Halcyon Furniture, was found not guilty of two counts of sexual activity with a child following a trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court. He denied all charges against him.

The incident was alleged to have happened at his farmhouse in Houghton near Oswestry on August 9, 2014.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, told the jury that the 47-year-old grabbed her bottom twice during the 1980s-themed fancy dress party. Judge Mr Recorder Stephen Thomas told King that he was "discharged" regarding the matters.

He thanked the jury for their deliberations.

He said: "It is difficult in these situations to reach a decision. You can only decide by using the evidence that you have before you."

Half marathon plans revealed

ONE of Britain's most unusual half marathons will be held in Shropshire next year.

Gorillas wearing running suits will act as mileposts and runners will wind their way through sculptures of wildebeest, giraffes and elephants during the Oswestry Half Marathon on April 30.

The event is being organised by the Shropshire-based UKrunchatevents organisation and will start and finish at the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry.

Oswestry Olympians running club has agreed to support the event to help it become a success. The theme for the marathon will be the huge spoon gorilla sculpture that was made by the British Ironwork Centre out of thousands of donated spoons.

Clive Knowles from the centre said: "The event is already being heralded as the most unusual running event in the Midlands and already there are 176 runners registered to take part."

More information on the event is available on www.ukrunchat.co.uk

Tickets available for autumn show

TICKETS have gone on sale for a local amateur dramatic group's autumn production.

Guildfield Amateur Dramatic Society will perform Ladies Day, by Amanda Whittington.

It is a northern comedy drama first performed by the Hull Truck Theatre Company in 2006.

The show will be performed on November 17, 18, 24, 25 and 26 at Guildfield Community Centre.

Tickets are available online at guildfieldads.net/tickets or through Welshpool Jewellers and Costcutter, Guildfield.

Details about the group can also be found on Facebook at facebook.com/GuildfieldTheatre, the theatre group has said.

Staffing crisis could see one A&E close at night

Report by James Pugh

ONE of Shropshire's two A&E departments may close at night unless support is secured from another hospital, health bosses have warned.

Talks are being carried out with an unnamed large hospital to provide staff to support the Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal after current staffing levels reached near crisis point.

A meeting of Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Council's joint health overview and scrutiny committee heard that without the support of the unnamed hospital, one department could close at 10pm seven-days-a-week. The meeting also heard that although a "safe service" is currently being provided in the county, staffing levels have received a further blow after a consultant has offered to resign.

Simon Wright, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust chief executive, also revealed the county's A&E departments are not hitting their target of seeing 95 per cent of patients within four hours. "Nursing workforce is nearly full staffed but we have had no success bolstering the medical workforce," he said. "We are exploring options where support can be released to help us. We are providing a safe service but we are unable to meet the 95 per target."

"We have had a consultant who has offered to resign but we are in talks with them about reconsidering. A huge amount of work is going on with a large hospital with providing support. Without the support, with regret, we could have to close one department at 10pm seven-days-a-week."

David Evans, chief officer for Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "In terms of GP recruitment there are not enough coming through the system. It is a national issue."

Mid Wales skies alive with red kites



Hundreds of kites take to the skies. Photo: Elin Davies and Cal Hibbard.

THERE was a time when to see a red kite was a rare and memorable experience.

But now the skies in one part of Mid Wales are alive with the birds.

About 500 kites regularly swoop on a feeding station after the species was saved from the brink of extinction.

Red kites flock to a 200-acre sheep farm in Powys every day, where conservation efforts are paying off.

Gigrin Farm has been an RSPB

feeding station for the birds since 1992. The red kites are tempted in by hunks of meat and, year-on-year, more and more birds turn up.

The kites were close to extinction 50 years ago, but the species has bounced back thanks to initiatives like this.

In a stunning display huge numbers of the aerial predators now circle overhead at Gigrin Farm, north of Llandrindod Wells, before diving to snatch morsels of food.

Chris Powell, partner at Gigrin Farm, said the feeding station's work is vital. He said: "We started seeing these kites about 25 years ago and at the start, we were feeding two. Over the years they have grown to hundreds. Over the last 10 or 15 years the numbers have grown rapidly and things have improved drastically."

"We are now feeding 400 or 500 birds in the summer months and even more in the winter because they can't find food."

Plea made to hospital visitors over winter bug

PEOPLE planning to visit hospitals and other healthcare facilities are being asked to stay away if they have experienced any of the symptoms of norovirus.

Sometimes known as the winter vomiting bug, norovirus is the most common stomach bug in the UK.

It is highly contagious and can affect people of all ages. The number of cases of diarrhoea and vomiting recorded normally increases going into the winter months.

With the current demand on health services across Shropshire, health bosses say it is particularly important that people help to prevent the spread of these illnesses, especially to vulnerable patients.

Dr Patricia O'Neill, of Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "Please do not visit hospitals or care homes if you, or the people you live with, have had diarrhoea, vomiting or flu-like symptoms in the last 48 hours."

"If you are unsure whether to visit, please feel free to contact the ward nurse before you come into hospital."

Liz Watkins, of Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust, said: "It's really important to make sure that we protect vulnerable patients and hospital staff, whether this is in the main hospitals in Shrewsbury and Telford, or in the four community hospitals in Ludlow, Whitechurch, Bridgnorth or Bishop's Castle. This is why we're asking everyone considering visiting or attending any of our hospitals if they have experienced diarrhoea, vomiting, flu-like symptoms, or have been generally unwell in the last 48 hours, to think very carefully if they need to visit."

"If you still feel that your visit is necessary telephone the ward or department for advice before visiting."

She added that good hand hygiene can help to limit the spread of the infection.

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Boccia tournament is well supported by groups



The first heat of the boccia tournament took place at Oswestry Leisure Centre

THE annual Shropshire boccia tournament is now underway with the first heat taking place in Oswestry Leisure Centre.

Eight teams took part in the first heat, with players travelling from a wide area including Whitechurch, Baschurch, Ruyton XI Towns and Oswestry.

Two teams, called the Sloggers and the VIPs, represented the Oswestry Sight Loss Oppor-

tunity Group and were accompanied by their guide dogs.

Boccia indoor bowls is a Paralympic sport which can be played by people with a wide range of disabilities.

For blind players, the referee stands over the jack ball and plays bowls in the direction of the referee's voice.

Shropshire Rural Community Council or-

ganises the annual sports tournament but each competition is refereed by students at the local college.

At the Oswestry event, students from North Shropshire College supported the tournament. Organisers say this mix of younger and older generations has proved very popular.

The medallists from the Oswestry heats were in first place the Ruyton Rollers, in sec-



The tournament at Oswestry Leisure Centre was enjoyed by everyone taking part

ond place the Baschurch BlueBirds and in third place was Bradbury Day Centre's Firey Jacks B team.

The Rollers and BlueBirds go through to the county final which takes place this week at SCAT in Shrewsbury.

For more information about Shropshire boccia, people can contact Susie Hancocks on (01743) 342160.

Man sentenced by court over two assaults

A HANDYMAN who assaulted his partner during a row before pushing over her 83-year-old neighbour who had tried to intervene, has avoided going to prison.

Robert Ayres had been in an on-off relationship with his partner for nine years, but had not seen her for six weeks prior to the incident. He had called round to visit but was drunk when he arrived and they argued, Telford Magistrates Court heard. Abigail Hall, prosecuting, Arleston, Telford had alcohol issues which at the root of their problems. She said Ayres claimed he had not been drinking, but the victim could tell he was drunk when he arrived at her address in Oswestry at about 8pm on August 27.

Miss Hall told the court that Ayres grabbed the injured party's hair and pushed his fist in her face. He kicked a door at the property with his steel toe cap boot, causing it to crack then kicked her causing bruising and soreness.

She said the woman's elderly neighbour came out of his house when he overheard the commotion and told Ayres to "go away". Miss Hall said: "The defendant put out his two hands and pushed him causing him to fall over backwards on to the floor." Ayres, who represented himself, pleaded guilty to two charges of assault by beating and another of criminal damage at a previous hearing.

For assault he was sentenced to 15 weeks jail, for criminal damage four weeks jail to run concurrently and suspended for two years. He was ordered to carry out 80 hours unpaid work, a 20-hour probation course, he must pay a total of £350 compensation, £115 victims' surcharge, £135 costs. An unspecified restraining order was also made.

Call for a look at allowances

SHROPSHIRE Council is being challenged over the special allowances it awards – by one of its own members.

Councillor Duncan Kerr said that 39 members of the authority received such an allowance during 2015/2016 and described the top-ups as a "gravy train for a selected few".

The Green Party member said he would be writing to Shropshire's monitoring officer asking why the council is not complying with the views of the Government on restricting the number of councillors who receive special allowances.

Councillor Kerr was speaking out as the latest allowances and expenses claimed at the unitary authority were expected to be released to the public.

He said: "The gravy train shows that some 39 councillors, nearly all in the Conservative party, were given extra "special" allowances in addition to their basic allowance of £11,514.

"This is not only immoral it may also, according to the Government, be illegal. In an open letter to another Tory-controlled council, Surrey the Minister for Local Government made it clear that 'special allowances cease to be special if a majority of Councillors receive them'.

"I have made it clear that I will only take my basic allowances and not claim a penny in subsistence or travelling."

Accused in court over disturbance

FIVE people have appeared in court in relation to a disturbance in a street in Oswestry.

The five face charges after an incident in Castlefields, Oswestry, on May 8 this year.

David Edwards, 34, of Castlefields, denies charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Darren Walmsley and possessing an offensive weapon, namely a claw hammer.

Alan Walmsley, 24, of Swan Lane, Oswestry, pleaded not guilty to assaulting David Edwards and causing actual bodily harm, affray and possessing an offensive weapon, namely a knife.

Jennifer Simonaitis, 34, of Castlefields; Sarah Walmsley, 38, also of Castlefields; and Danna Winstanley, 35, of Swan Lane, Oswestry, all deny charges of affray.

Judge Peter Barrie adjourned the case and set a date for trial, expected to last between five and seven days, on June 12 next year.

All five were bailed until that date.

Canal restoration proposal gets huge cash investment



Works is continuing to restore the Montgomery Canal



Campaigners hope to see the waterway fully reopened in the future

Report by Sue Austin

MORE than £2.5 million has been awarded to a project to restore a section of a historic canal.

The money, which will go towards a £4.2 million project to restore a stretch of the Montgomery Canal, will enable work to start next year, officials behind the scheme have said.

The new 1.25 mile stretch at Crickheath, near Oswestry, will be open to narrowboats within three years – the first time boats will have been seen there for 80 years.

A winding hole – a turning point for narrowboats – will be created and the scheme will also improve access to the canal, create new nature reserves and improve almost four miles of towpath between Welshpool and Llanymynech. Those behind the project are hopeful the canal – which runs for 35 miles from near Ellesmere to Newtown – will be re-opened as far as Welshpool within in the next decade.

Richard Parry, chief executive of the Canal and River Trust said: "The money together with funding from other organisations will help carry out vital work towards the restoration of the Montgomery Canal which is one of the most beautiful waterways in Britain. I would also like to thank the volunteers for their continuing hard work which has kept the dream alive to restore the canal."

The trust will be working with the 15 partner organisations which make up the Montgomery Canal Partnership on the project.

John Dodwell, chairman of the Montgomery Canal Partnership said: "This is a major step forward in the restoration of one of Britain's longest running canal restorations and fits into our recently announced 10 year restoration strategy for the canal."



The canal is one of the most beautiful in the country



Work taking place on the dry section of the Montgomery Canal

Recycle rates above target says council

FIGURES released by the Welsh Government showing that Powys exceeded the 2015/16 statutory recycling target have been welcomed by the county council.

The Welsh Government figures show the council recycled over 59 per cent of waste and exceeded the current statutory recycling rate of 58 per cent.

The final results for 2015/16 shows the county's reuse, recycling and composting rate increased by seven percentage points on the 2014/15 figure.

The statistics show the average combined reuse, recycling and composting rate across Wales' 22 local authorities was 60 per cent, double the amount that was being recycled just a decade ago.

Cllr John Powell, cabinet member for waste and recycling, said: "We're delighted to have exceeded the statutory recycling target in 2015/16 by recycling over 59 per cent of waste in the county and we would like to thank everyone that contributed to this achievement."

"Our latest recycling figures show that the county recycled more than 4,000 tonnes of material in August, an impressive 66 per cent of all material and well above the county's statutory target of 58 per cent of material being recycled during the year. I would also like to thank householders for recycling efficiently by keeping plastic bags and film out of their red kerbside recycling box. The quality of the plastic material collected has improved dramatically and we are now generating an income from the material when previously it cost us to dispose of it. We can't be complacent, although the rates for August were above 66 per cent we anticipate the overall rate for 2016/17 will settle to around 62 per cent, due to seasonal variations in garden waste."

Man admits porn charges

A MAN came to the attention of the US authorities when he uploaded an indecent image of a child onto an American porn website, a court heard.

Police chiefs passed on the details to the National Crime Agency in the UK and officers raided the home of John Smith, from Oswestry, to find more than 130,000 indecent images of children on his computer. The 34-year-old appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court where he was handed a 12-month community order.

Smith, of Smale Rise, admitted three charges of making indecent photographs of children between January 2010 and January this year. He also pleaded guilty to distributing an indecent photograph of a child when he uploaded it to the website, and admitted another charge of possessing an extreme pornographic image.

Brendan Reedy, for Smith, said his client was a "somewhat isolated figure" who had abused alcohol from a very early age.

Judge Peter Barrie said the public interest would be better served in trying to rehabilitate Smith. He sentenced him to a community order for 12 months to include 40 days of rehabilitation activity and 100 hours of unpaid work. Smith was also made the subject of a Sexual Harm Prevention Order restricting his use of the internet and must sign on the sex offenders register for five years.

Burglary gang member jailed

A MEMBER of a gang of burglars said to have targeted Asian families for the valuable gold has been jailed for four years.

In September sentences totalling 42 years were imposed on others who admitted the conspiracy. Now Patrick Doran received two and a half years for his part in the conspiracy, which he admitted, and 18 months for a separate burglary in Wolverhampton.

Judge Nicolas Parry, sitting at Mold Crown Court, told Doran, 30, formerly of Ruthin Road caravan site at Wrexham, that he was being sentenced for the conspiracy on the basis of two burglaries and that on a second day went with two other serious conspirators who were involved in the disposal of stolen goods at a pawn brokers. The conspiracy involved 37 burglaries in Chester, The Wirral and the Shropshire/Welsh border, near Oswestry.

Defending barrister Philip Tully said that his client had mental health problems and had been persuaded by others to get involved.

Young entrepreneurs open up new enterprise



Headmaster Julian Noad formally opened The Hub at the school

WHILE The Apprentice is back on our screens, sixth form business students have set up a new space for budding entrepreneurs at their school.

The teenagers from Oswestry School transformed a previously unused area of the school into a business centre, naming it The Hub.

Head of business faculty Linda Stephens said that the students, under the OsBiz venture, formed a committee and after much research, discussion and debate a detailed proposal was

presented to the headmaster. She said: "The idea was approved and with students' hard work and determination the idea turned into a reality, a risky reality as a large investment was required."

"To be successful the area needed to look appealing and inviting – a place in school where students would feel at home.

"The name, The Hub, was suggested by parent and local businesswoman from Sign and Design Jean Oakley.



The busy snack bar at The Hub at Oswestry School

"This space is just what the business students were looking for, somewhere to escape the busy school environment, a place to meet and hang out with friends.

"The name represents the brand and has created an image that will help promote future OsBiz ventures."

OsBiz committee members Sarah Bucknall, Eliza Liepina, Brian Wong and Evelyn Ma said that the investment had allowed them to create a multifunctional space which can now be used

by all the OsBiz ventures. They said: "Last year we supported the Teenage Cancer Trust, Pod Children's Charity, Make-A-Wish and the Bone Cancer Centre at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.

"We hope this new facility will enable us to raise even more for charity over the forthcoming year."

Headmaster Julian Noad had the honour of officially opening the facility through a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

College students take part in various learning projects



Beverly Jackson, student services manager, at the college



Access to HE students from the health, humanities and science subject areas hold up their desired area of study when they move on to university

Report by Naomi Penrose

STUDENTS at North Shropshire College in Oswestry have been involved in various projects in recent weeks.

Six agricultural students and two apprentices went to Finland for a two-week study tour experiencing Finnish culture and work ethic whilst working on dairy, cattle and arable farms.

Bev Parry, from the college's enterprise and development department, said: "We see these work placements as a fantastic opportunity which will add value to the students' college qualifications and provide experience of a different language and culture."

A new cohort of Access to HE students is embarking on an intensive year course in preparation for higher education.

In addition to the ever popular health route for those wanting to enter nursing, midwifery and paramedicine, students are also aiming to progress to a wide variety of degrees through new science and humanities diplomas.

The college has appointed a new student services manager, Beverly Jackson who comes to the college after a varied and rewarding career in student support, leading health and social care teaching and working as a nurse in the NHS.

Staffordshire University's Great Minds Bus Tour came to the college's Oswestry campus. The experience was available to students looking to progress on to a higher education course in September so they can see what university has to offer them.

The tour bus provided an immersive experience of Staffordshire University directly to the college. Students saw a film about the university and experienced life at the university through Virtual Reality.



Staff and students, from left, Sally Jones, Sara Shelston, Jack Parsons, Erin Beecroft and Liam Davies learn more about Staffordshire University



Student Nicolas Sumang experiencing the Virtual Reality of Staffordshire University



Katie Edwards and Bev Parry from the enterprise and development department

Good sized detached dormer house sits on a corner plot

A good sized four-bedroomed detached dormer house, 7 Wilfred Owen Road, Oswestry lies on a corner plot with ample parking.

It is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £225,000.

The property is situated on a mature estate being within reasonable walking distance of the local shopping facilities in Cabin Lane and Unicorn Road. There is a regular bus service into the towns shopping centre. Having been improved by the owner with a new driveway and garage door, number 7 comes with double glazing and gas central heating. It has an entrance porch with floor tiling, an entrance hall with stairs off to the first floor and a fitted carpet and a cloakroom with vinyl flooring. The lounge has a modern fireplace with a coal-effect fire and fitted carpeting. From here double doors open to a study with carpeting. This room has patio doors opening to the rear garden.

With vinyl flooring, the breakfast kitchen has a one and a quarter sink, ample modern units of fitted wall and base cupboards with worktops, an extractor canopy, a four burner hob, a double oven, integrated dishwasher, fridge and freezer, pantry cupboards, a cloaks cupboard and a view down rear garden. This room is also served by a utility, which has a stainless steel sink unit, fitted wall and base cupboards with worktops, plumbing for washing machine, space for dryer and vinyl flooring. The conservatory has a tiled floor. Completing the ground floor accommodation, bedroom four has a fitted wardrobe and is carpeted. Off the first floor galleried carpeted landing, bedroom one is dual aspect and is carpeted and has an en suite shower room.

Bedroom two is carpeted, bedroom three is also carpeted and has a fitted wardrobe. The family bathroom has a modern white suite comprising a bath with a shower and a screen, low-level WC, pedestal wash hand basin, a heated towel rail, extraction, complementary wall tiling and vinyl flooring.

Outside is a wide brick paved drive providing ample car parking and access to garaging with an electric remote controlled roller door. There is also a well maintained front lawn with a hedge boundary and a neat and well maintained rear lawned garden with a patio area and a timber shed.

KEY FEATURES

- Four bedrooms
- Detached
- Dormer style
- Corner plot
- Ample parking

OSWESTRY £225,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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Village property is up for sale at public auction

LLANFAIR CAEREINION
£150,000 - £180,000

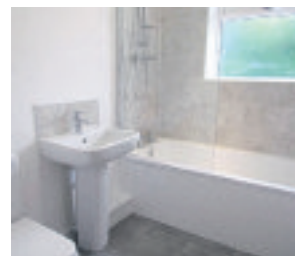
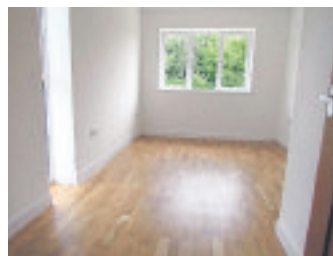
Llwyn Gwyn at Llanfair Caereinion is for sale by public auction on Friday, November 11, at Halls Holdings House, Battlefield, Shrewsbury, as part of a collective property auction.

There is a guide price of between £150,000 to £180,000.

The property comprises a substantial detached two storey family home with extensive and adaptable accommodation set in a pleasant rural location with glorious views.

As the price reflects, the property is in need of renovation and modernisation, but is habitable being occupied by the vendor.

Contact Halls on 01938 555552 for more details about the auction and the property.



Brand new bungalow is in quiet lane in centre of village

TREFLACH
£219,500

<<<

A brand new individually designed two bedroom detached bungalow, Chapel Cottage, Stoney Road, in Treflach, is located on a quiet lane in the centre of the village.

The property is on the market through JJ Dell&Co with a guide price of £219,500 and there is no chain. The home benefits from under floor heating and pvc double glazing. There is an entrance hall, two double bedrooms, a bathroom and ensuite, a kitchen living area and a utility and cloakroom. The property also benefits from parking.

The property occupies a central position in the village of Treflach with local pub and bus services. The property has off-street parking to the front and to the sides and rear is an enclosed lawned garden area with paved walkways.

Contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.

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Property includes two separate homes and lawned gardens

TREFLACH

£425,000

<<<

This superb detached residence in Oak Lane, Treflach is a high spec self build consisting of a spacious three double bedroomed home plus a detached triple garage with a self-contained apartment.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £425,000.

The property sits in landscaped grounds with lawned gardens and extensive parking. Situated in a tucked away location in the pretty village of Treflach, all amenities are close by with Oswestry town a five minute drive away.

The property offers great scope for two families with adaptable accommodation. The property has been built to a very high standard by the present owners and includes superb insulation, high specification fixtures and fittings along with Cat 5 wiring installed.

All rooms are decorated immaculately with carpeting and flooring being in 'as new' condition.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



House in a tranquil hill location with 11 acres

CREW GREEN

£775,000

A charming house in a tranquil location set on Bausley Hill with around 11 acres of woodland and paddocks, Bausley Hill Farm at Crew Green has outstanding views across Shropshire.

It is for sale through Balfours at £775,000.

It has a dining hall, sitting room, study, kitchen, garden room, a ground floor bedroom with an en-suite shower room, four further bedrooms, a large bathroom, large shower room, a double garage, handling barn, gardens, mature and established woodland and paddocks.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Georgian country house has lawns and tennis court

A fully restored Georgian country house adjoining parkland and open countryside, Pen-y-Llan Hall on the edge of Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £1,250,000.

It has a vestibule, entrance hall, inner hall, drawing room, study, morning room, dining room, conservatory, cloakroom/WC,

OSWESTRY

£1,250,000

sitting room, playroom, kitchen, utility room, pantry and cellars. It also has a master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms all en-suite, bedroom six, dressing

room, two attic rooms, a bathroom, detached former annexe with planning permission for a workshop, stores, kitchen, cloakroom/WC, garaging and domestic buildings. There are also lawned gardens and a tennis court and woodland of around 2.8 acres.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



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High court rejects fight by landlords over tax change

The High Court in London has rejected a legal application on behalf of residential landlords for a review of Section 24 of the Finance Act 2015 which will change the way their income is taxed from next year.

The changes, which are due to come into force in 2017, would stop landlords being able to claim buy to let costs, including mortgage interest payments, as a business expense.

Lawyers had argued that Section 24 is unlawful on the basis that it restricts the ability of a landlord to deduct finance costs as a business expense and may also breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

An action group, Axe the Tenant Tax, and the UK's largest landlord organisation expressed disappointment at the decision but campaigners say they will now take the fight to abolish the tax change by putting significant political pressure on MPs and Government.

The group, which is a crowd funded coalition of individuals and organisations who represent more than 150,000 landlords, warned that if the change does come into effect next year it will mean higher rents for tenants. The National Landlord's Association said it was also disappointed.

"This decision is ultimately disappointing not just for landlords, but for the tenants who will see their rents rise as a consequence of the changes to landlord taxation. While we have never been convinced that there was a solid enough legal case to overturn George Osborne's decision, we hoped the Courts would be prepared at least to listen to the arguments," said Richard Lambert, NLA chief executive officer.

"We congratulate the campaign team on their determination, perseverance, and their success in raising awareness and increasing the visibility and understanding of what will be a dramatic change to the ability of hard working people to provide homes for others," he explained.

"This issue has been the focus of the NLA's lobbying for the past 15 months and, as the UK's largest representative body for landlords, we are still committed to changing this damaging policy through political engagement and lobbying. We urge all landlords to join us in this fight."

Cherie Blair QC of Omnia Strategy LLP, who represented co-claimants Steve Bolton, chairman of Platinum Property Partners, and fellow landlord Chris Cooper, on behalf of the Axe the Tenant Tax said she was disappointed by the decision.

"Steve and Chris, and many others, have dedicated a lot of time and energy into putting forward the best case possible. We know the case has been supported and followed with interest by a large number of individual landlords. Many of these landlords now face challenging times ahead," she said.

"From the outset, the legal process was just one aspect of our clients' fight against this unfair measure. Together with their impressive and growing coalition, they will continue to engage with the Government, and the legal team wishes them every success," she added.

Good news for buyers as house price increases slow

There's some good news for those looking to buy a new home.

House prices are now increasing at around half the yearly rate they were six months ago, according to an index.

Property values in September were up by 5.8 per cent annually, marking a cooldown compared with a 10 per cent rate of annual price growth recorded just six months earlier, in March.

Halifax, which released the figures, said September's 5.8 per cent yearly growth rate was the weakest recorded since August 2013.

On a monthly basis, prices edged up by 0.1 per cent in September, following two months of price falls. The average UK house price in September was £214,024.

Martin Ellis, a housing economist at Halifax, said: "The housing market has followed a steady downward trend over the past six months, with clear evidence of both a softening in activity levels and an easing in house price inflation."

He continued: "A lengthy period where house prices have risen more rapidly than earnings has put pressure on affordability, therefore constraining demand. Very low mortgage rates and a shortage of properties available for sale should, however, help support price levels over the coming months."

Halifax said quarterly changes in house prices tend to be a more reliable indicator of what is happening in the market than monthly changes.

On a quarterly basis, house prices in the three months to September were 0.1 per cent lower than they were between April and June. This was the weakest quarterly



rate of change seen since November 2012.

Jeremy Leaf, a former residential chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Rics), said Halifax's figures indicate house prices "held up better than expected", considering they reflect the months following the Brexit vote.

He said: "Since the beginning of September we have seen an increase in activity, although buyers are still relatively slow to commit until they are sure they have achieved what they think are the

best possible terms." Mark Harris, chief executive of mortgage broker SPF Private Clients, said: "Despite the uncertainty and concern surrounding the referendum, the market seems to have quickly absorbed the ramifications of the UK's decision to leave the EU.

"We were concerned that Brexit would mean the market would stall, with buyers and sellers racked with indecision, but that doesn't seem to have happened. It certainly helps that mortgage rates are so cheap and it looks as though we will be in

an extremely low interest rate environment for the foreseeable future, so there is great value to be had." Howard Archer, chief UK and European economist at IHS Global Insight, said Halifax's figures reinforce his belief that house prices will be "essentially flat" over the final months of 2016.

He said: "While softer housing market activity is likely to limit house prices, we suspect that the current resilience of the economy and a shortage of properties will prevent prices from falling over the final months of 2016."

Best use of space will make home easier to sell

Cloakrooms, shower rooms and bathrooms make your home more valuable and sellable, but getting them right can be tricky

1. Lots of cottages and other small houses have a downstairs bathroom, usually off the kitchen, which isn't to everyone's taste. Sometimes moving the bathroom upstairs into one of the bedrooms adds value, but it does depend on the number of bedrooms, and who you're likely to sell to (older, downsizing buyers are more likely to want an upstairs bathroom, for example), as well as your own needs. Buyers will often expect a downstairs bathroom in that area or type of property, so moving the bathroom upstairs could be a waste of time and money. It could also devalue the property by reducing the number of bedrooms.

2. If you have a downstairs bathroom, but can fit a toilet (and washbasin) upstairs without compromising the layout too much, this is worth doing. Could part of a bedroom, the landing or a cupboard be made into a small cloakroom? Jack-and-Jill bathrooms, shower rooms and cloakrooms, where the room can be accessed by more than one room – usually a bedroom on either side – work well if space is tight.

3. In larger, family homes, a downstairs cloakroom is a must. If there isn't an obvious place for one, creating space out of all or some of the understairs cupboard can be the answer. The cupboard may have to be enlarged, which isn't necessarily a simple job, and you will lose storage space, but a downstairs loo adds value in a family home and makes daily life easier.

4. Another way to make a small space work harder is to create a wet room. This is typically a waterproof, fully tiled room where there's a shower but no shower tray or enclosure, so the whole room effectively becomes the enclosure. If you don't enjoy taking baths, it can be tempting to rip out the bath and replace it with a wet room or a big shower



enclosure, but this may put buyers off when you come to sell, especially if they have young children.

5. Having a bath and a shower enclosure gives you the best of both worlds, but cramming them into a room that's not really big enough can be counterproductive. If you only have space for one

or the other, a bath with a shower curtain or bath screen and bath-shower mixer taps (bath taps with a shower hose and head) or a shower is perfect because it's two in one. Shower baths work best because they're usually wider at the taps/shower end, giving you more room to shower.

Visitors lured by berry crop

THE boreal forest belt that stretches from the Scandinavia countries across and through Russia may not, at first glance, be the ideal spawning ground of one of our most cherished migrant birds.

But it is here, in this land of moose and bison, bear and (the occasional) tiger, that flocks of waxwings originate in the summer and autumn and move en masse in the southerly direction at this time of year with a decent handful of said birds making their way to Shropshire.

Many migrants to this country are driven by an instinctive urge to travel, be it for breeding or to escape harsher conditions in their native lands.

Swallows, martins and various butterflies during the spring and summer for example; swans and salmon in the autumn and winter. But for the waxwing, it is almost entirely about food.

They are not in fact true migratory birds by nature, (certainly not long-distance ones) instead they are ruled by the berry crop on the continent.

We often exalt in really good waxwing years when thousands of birds descend upon our small, red rowan, hawthorn and ornamental fruits.

Yet in truth, the birds we are lucky enough to see in these years are desperate refugees from over the North Sea, the availability of berries on the Continent being in dangerously short supply. Therefore if we see few waxwings this winter, it can be seen as good news for the species.

If and when they do arrive, it's usually by the end of October – however we rarely see

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



them before this time in Shropshire. Due to the breeding grounds being east and north of Britain, eastern and northern Britain get the highest numbers of waxwings during the winter.

In years where many birds arrive, they tend to disperse further south and west throughout the winter only as and when they deplete the berry crops.

Our native rowan is the favoured plant of waxwings, but they will take other native and non-native berries, including hawthorn, cotoneaster and rosehips.

If they're in the area and you don't have berries, they can be attracted into gardens using halves of apples hung from a tree.

Shrubs Although not particularly glamorous (along with the possibility of strange glances from shoppers), supermarket car parks are a classic place to see these birds as they often have ornamental shrubs with berries.

Indeed berries are incredibly important for waxwings in the winter. It is the sole reason they travel to our country and they typically eat 800 to 1,000 berries a day each. That's roughly twice their body weight and they would soon perish without them.

Back home in the breeding season, however, they feed mostly on mosquitoes and midges.

If we have a mild spring, they will happily hang around to feed on insects, flowers and tree buds. But why 'wax'wing? Well for such an attractively-coloured bird with a

myriad of varying shades and blushes, the name in fact comes from a few tiny red tips of a couple of the wing feathers.

These are clearly seen when the bird is at rest and are similar both in colour and

conspicuousness to a bright red, wax seal on an old letter, hence waxwing.

Ben will be exhibiting his new originals at the Great North West Art Show, Chester Town Hall, on Saturday, October 29.



Waxwing – pen and ink – by Ben Waddams

Councils still to use funds from developments

COUNCILS are holding onto millions of pounds given to them by developers for projects to improve communities.

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Powys councils are all currently making deep cuts in services. But figures reveal they have substantial cash pots left unspent.

The money is kept in funds paid by developers as part of section 106 agreements that are made as part of the planning process.

The figures reveal Telford & Wrekin Council has more than £13 million in the bank from section 106 payments, Shropshire Council has almost £7 million left unspent in its account and Powys Council has more than £1.2 million left to spend.

Council officers said the money is to be used on certain community or infrastructure projects, which may have to take place at a specific time.

They say the cash, paid by developers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, cannot be used to ease cuts in services because it is ring fenced for capital projects.

Chris Kowalik, of Telford & Wrekin Council, said: "As at September 22 2016, the amount still to be spent is £13.23million. All this money is ring fenced for particular projects to be spent at a certain time, or by a certain time, in some cases the spending deadline is years away, and that's why it's in the bank until such time it has to be spent. If it isn't spent on the project it's ring fenced for, on or by the time stipulated, then it would have to be given back."

Shropshire Council has £6.8m of section 106 money still waiting to be spent. In 2016 it received £3.1m, £413,835 of which was spent on affordable housing, £186,757 was spent on improvements to highways, car parks and the environment, £259,101 was spent on play areas and open spaces, while £32,427 was spent on education.

Ian Kilby, Shropshire Council's planning services manager, said: "Section 106 agreements are often referred to as 'developer contributions', and are usually used to fund infrastructure requirements such as highways improvements, education, open space or to secure the provision of affordable housing. Funds are collected by Shropshire Council, and then spent in accordance with the terms of each agreement."

Over the past five years, Powys County Council has received £1.65m from developers under section 106 and has £1,261,918 still unspent.

A council spokesman: "The council has a steering group that monitors the implementation of section 106 agreements."



Entertainment unleashed

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Freya Stansfield and Stephanie Whale with their Future Awards



Students taking part in the 'Step into Secondary' workshop at Chester University



Marches School students received a talk on university life

Students show skills



Ellie Potts has been a big hit on the golf course

YOUNGSTERS around the Oswestry area have been showing off their talents in recent weeks.

Ellie Potts, a Year 9 student at The Marches School, took part in the Henlle Park Golf Club's Ladies September Medal.

The talented youngster came away as the champion, winning the title by five shots with a nett 67. Ellie has been practising her golf throughout the summer, taking part in a number of competitions.

The Marches School held a Futures Award celebration event for students who excelled in the award in the last academic year.

The scheme aims to record students' achievements in the community, in employment environments, in the classroom academically and in creative settings.



All the Future Award winners at The Marches School in Oswestry celebrate their achievements



Youngsters take part in the 'Step into Secondary' workshop



Holly Outram with her Future Award



Rebecca Owen with her Future Award

Report by Naomi Penrose

Centre, Oswestry Town Council and BMW Rybrook Shrewsbury.

The award winners, community sponsors, friends and family enjoyed high tea with tea and cakes to celebrate the students who achieved a host of badges and who have also gained valuable skills at the same time.

Certificates and trophies were awarded to students by Mayor of Oswestry, Paul Milner.

The Futures Award focuses on the key attributes students need in the world, alongside their exam results, characteristics that make them successful as adults and school staff said the group of students have embraced this opportunity to the full.

The school congratulated all students who attended the event with a special mention to Rebecca Owen who received the highest amount of reward points across the school.

A total of 35 Year 6 students from Oswestry and surrounding areas embarked on a trip to

Chester University as part of The Marches Futures Award.

Organised by The Marches School, the trip to Chester University was designed to ignite the aspirations of Year 6 students and provide them with an insight into higher education and the opportunities that will be available to them in the future.

Students spent the day at the Chester University Parkgate Road Campus and attended a range of activities and presentations.

Activities included Step into Secondary by Performing Pathways, a University Journey workshop and a graduation ceremony, where students collected their certificates wearing their very own mortar boards which they made themselves.

Students also enjoyed a full tour of the campus and facilities by the student ambassadors and found out, first hand, what being a university student is really like.

The Primary Schools involved were Woodside Primary, Holy Trinity C of E Pri-

mary, Trefonen C of E Primary, The Meadows Primary and Whittington Primary.

The Marches School was delighted to welcome staff and current undergraduate students from St John's College, Cambridge for a sequence of talks to students of The Marches and Sir John Talbot's School.

The session lasted all morning with 40 Year 9 students attending.

The students were given a talk on 'Life at Cambridge University' by access officer, Megan Goldman Roberts and this was followed by sessions on science and humanities, designed to give Year 9 students an insight into how these subjects are taught at Cambridge.

These were led by current lecturers and undergraduate students.

Megan Goldman Roberts said: "It has been so great having the opportunity to work with staff and students at The Marches School. Everyone has been really welcoming. Thank you to the students for being so engaging".

Sally Wilmot, science teacher at The

Marches School, said: "The students took part in two really interesting workshops looking at medical research and philosophy. This session has inspired students and who knows, some of the leading experts in world health in the future could come from The Marches School."

"We are very grateful to Cambridge University for taking the time to come and visit the school and provide our students with really helpful and aspirational information."

Matt Dickinson, author, Everest climber and filmmaker, visited The Marches School to talk about his writing and his adventures to Years 10 and 11 students as part of their literature work.

Matt talked to students about his books and how he originally started to write and his experiences of climbing mountains.

He gave tips on how to be a writer, using real life experiences to craft exciting stories. Matt showed pictures and footage of his Everest adventures, including the moment that he stood on top of the mountain itself.



Year 9 Marches student Lindsey Evans with author Matt Dickinson



Year 10 students William Neilson, Thomas Griffiths, Samuel Rogers and Elliot Kapal with author Matt Dickinson



Oswestry's Holy Trinity Primary School pupils at the graduation ceremony at Chester University



Trefonen School pupils at the graduation ceremony at Chester University



Matt Dickinson giving his talk to students during his visit to The Marches



The Marches librarian Joanne Towers with Matt Dickinson



All primary pupils celebrating their graduation at the Chester University day

Cinema listings

AMERICAN HONEY (15)



Sweet film – 8/10

Star (Sasha Lane) has been left to care for two young siblings, while her mother implodes on drugs. At night, Star endures her abusive stepfather. Star encounters a group of fun-loving teenagers led by Jake (Shia LaBeouf), who claims to be the manager of a door-to-door magazine subscription business. Determined to escape home, Star hits the road with Jake.

KATE PLAYS CHRISTINE (15)



Fact behind fiction – 7/10

The line between fact and fiction blurs beyond recognition in Robert Greene's riveting documentary thriller, which follows actress Kate Lyn Sheil as she prepares to play Florida news anchor Christine Chubbuck in a biopic. The TV journalist famously committed suicide on air by shooting herself as the cameras rolled on the morning of July 15, 1974.

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN (15)



Another adaptation – 7/10

Adapted from Paula Hawkins' bestselling debut novel, *The Girl On The Train* is an edge-of-the-seat thriller about a passenger who claims to have witnessed a crime.

Rachel Watson (Emily Blunt) has self-impaled following a messy divorce. She seeks refuge in the bottle.

When Rachel wakes from her drunken stupor, she has gaps in her memory.

WAR ON EVERYONE (15)



War-torn – 6/10

Officer Terry Monroe (Alexander Skarsgård) and his partner Bob Bolano (Michael Pena) protect their own interests with their police badges. Lieutenant Gerry Stanton (Paul Reiser) issues his men with a final warning before they learn a Lord is plotting a bank robbery. Terry and Bob allow the heist to take place with the intention of pocketing the ill-gotten profits themselves.

Inferno fails to spark

by Damon Smith

IT'S been 10 years since Tom Hanks squandered his Oscar-calibre talent as the ingenious hero of *The Da Vinci Code*.

The 2009 sequel, *Angels & Demons*, was hellish rather than heavenly. Now leading man Hanks, director Ron Howard and screenwriter David Koepp reunite to translate Dan Brown's pulpy page turner *Inferno* into a high-octane chase thriller.

It's a fruitless exercise, neatly encapsulated in one throwaway scene when Hanks' plucky symbolist recites facts about Dante's epic poem *Divine Comedy* and 15th century Italian art from memory, and his female sidekick cuts short his academic waffle to suggest a simpler solution to problems: "I use Google."

Brevity
Alas, brevity is not one of the film's strong points – the two-hour running time feels sluggish – and the script is muddled and lacking in full-blooded characterisation.

However, Hanks and co-star Felicity Jones forge a pleasant on-screen partnership and their co-stars merrily chew scenery as the plot throws up various double-crosses and red herrings before the truth about this conundrum-laden quest is revealed in a montage of flashbacks.

Inferno opens with crazed scientist Bertrand Zobrist (Ben Foster) taking a backwards dive from a bell tower in Florence, thereby escaping the chasing clutches of security forces led by Christoph Bruder (Omar Sy).

Soon after, Harvard University professor Robert Langdon (Hanks) wakes in a hospital in the same city with a gunshot wound to the head and a fractured memory.

Kind medic Dr Sienna Brooks (Jones)



Tom Hanks and Felicity Jones set off on a frantic journey to uncover the secret of Dante's *Inferno*

tends to him and when bullets fly in the corridors, she helps Langdon escape to her nearby apartment.

A thumbprint-encoded vial in Langdon's pocket reveals the first clue of a globe-trotting treasure hunt involving Dante's *Inferno* and a plague engineered by Zobrist to solve the overpopulation crisis in one bold stroke.

Working against them is Harry Sims (Ir-

fan Khan), head of a shadowy consortium, which billionaire Zobrist engaged to protect his interests.

Meanwhile, old flame Elizabeth Sinskey (Sidse Babbett Knudsen), head of the World Health Organisation, is also on the fugitives' trail.

Inferno goes through the motions as Langdon and Sienna uncover hidden messages in artworks and artefacts in their

attempt to avert mankind's darkest hour. Hanks' discombobulation, courtesy of his character's head injury, is symptomatic of a messy, disjointed picture that trundles along a linear path, pausing for the occasional robust set piece.

Jones lends her unwitting heroine some spunk and Khan relishes his Machiavellian puppetmaster's antics, trying to clean up other people's messes.

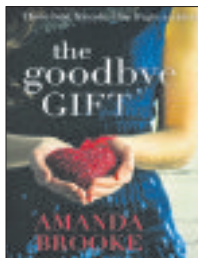
Book reviews

THE GOODBYE GIFT

By Amanda Brooke
Published by HarperCollins

Amanda Brooke dedicates this, her sixth book, "to my son's anonymous bone marrow donor". She tells the story of three best friends and one tragic accident as she focuses on the vital importance of organ donations. Lucy has been desperate for a new heart for as long as she can remember.

But getting the call to say a donor has been found will be a bittersweet relief – because before she can live life to the full, someone else must die. Julia, Helen and Phoebe have been friends for



all their lives, through Helen's unplanned pregnancy, the sudden death of Phoebe's mother and Julia's desperation to conceive. Yet through one tragic accident, the four lives converge.

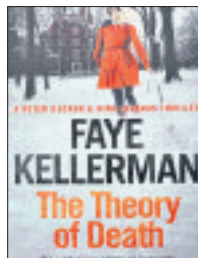
By Sally Williams

THE THEORY OF DEATH

By Faye Kellerman
Published by HarperCollins

The latest Pete Decker and Rina Lazarus thriller also involves Decker's former partner, Detective Tyler McAdams, recently returned to work after recovering from gunshot wounds and brought in when a body is found by two children near upstate New York.

Clues to the identity of the body, an apparent suicide, take them to Kneed Loft College and into the world of theoretical mathematics where they discover that the dead man was involved in private research into the sensitive matter of



loose objects floating around in space causing issues with communications satellites.

A fast-paced tale from a prolific author whose work is widely read and enjoyed.

By Sally Bunn

AUBREY ANNERSLEY'S LUCKY DAY

By John Thomas
Published by Twin Books

After a working life spent in the fictional West Midlands authority of Blackingly Borough Council, Aubrey Annersley is facing retirement and in need of a rest.

He doesn't get one. Instead he finds himself joining a group of eccentric septuagenarians trying to answer life's oldest question and find the source of happiness.

Throw in a chance meeting with a goth-looking IT expert and a remote friendship with a well-to-do man of the world, and Aubrey's retirement is not quite



what he expected it to be. I won't reveal why it is such a lucky day but Wolverhampton author John Thomas does have a knack for story-telling. It is quite easy to get lost in the dialogue, though.

By Mark Shipp

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Grace Currie shows off some of her art pieces



Oswestry Library will be staging work by Shakespeare

Exhibition will show off top artistic talent

A YOUNG woman who astounded doctors by surviving having suffered horrific brain injuries is making a name for herself in the art world.

Grace Currie is one of a handful of students from Shrewsbury College who have had their work chosen for an exhibition at one of the county's art galleries.

The exhibition – at Ironbridge Fine Arts Gallery – is a collection of work based upon the theme 'aide-memoire', requiring the artists to draw on collective or personal memories to create artworks that serve as an aid to the memory.

It was a perfect title for Grace, who had to rebuild her life and her memories, when she was hit by a car as she crossed the road in Baschurch in 2010 when she was 17.

She was left with severe brain injuries. Twice resuscitated at the side of the road, the teenager from Bagley, near Ellesmere, spent weeks in intensive care when no-one able to say how much she would recover.

Grace is now studying for an HND in photography in Shrewsbury.

She said the title was a chance to show people how a brain injury affects her memory.

Her nine images of the sea, taken from a boat, begin very clear and then as the boat speeds up become blurred and faded.

"That is like my memory, blurred and faded," she said.

Remember

"It is very hard to remember sometimes." She said she loved her photography and the course at Shrewsbury College.

"All the art is the exhibition is really good," she said.

Her father, Graeme, said: "This exhibition is a milestone for Grace."

"Her work, like that of the other students, had to be submitted to the fine arts gallery and those chosen for the exhibition were chosen because of their quality."

"We are all very very proud of her."

SPECIAL REPORT

By Sue Austin

"She continues to inspire and astound us with her progress."

Art & Design tutor Ed Catley said: "The diverse work on show references memories that are personal or collective, showing how they can be recorded or fictionalised through aesthetic creation."

"The students are very pleased to be exhibiting again in the community, providing accomplished and considered work for everyone to see."

As well as the students' Aide-Memoire exhibition there are other displays by local artists on show.

The free entry exhibition will be on display until November 25.

Meanwhile, the award-winning Oddsock's Theatre Company will be performing The Bard's Best Bits of Romeo and Juliet at Oswestry Library on Thursday next week.

Version

Thanks to a grant from Arts Council England, tickets are free to see this hilarious, accessible 90-minute version of Shakespeare's famous tale.

Team librarian Heather Rodenhurst said: "This unmissable treat during half-term week for everyone aged from 7 to 107 will see Shakespeare brought to life in the middle of the library in an entertaining mix of comedy, clowning and audience interaction."

"We hope to introduce younger children to Shakespeare in a fun way, interest teenagers in a playwright who was daring in his day, and encourage adults to revisit his works with a fresh eye." The Oddssocks West Midlands tour is part of the national Celebrating Shakespeare 2016 campaign and is supported by the Society of Chief Librarians and its partners. The performance is from 10.30 to noon and tickets need to be booked in advance. For more information or to book a free seat, contact Oswestry Library on (01743) 250381 or email oswestry.library@shropshire.gov.uk



Art student Grace Currie is exhibiting her work at a Shropshire venue

Growing hopes of museum honour for famous designer



Laura Ashley with some of her early designs

LAURA Ashley and Mid Wales have been inextricably linked for half a century – now there is fresh hopes for a museum in her name in the village where it all began.

Since her arrival in Mid Wales from Kent in the 1960s, the iconic designer's association with the village of Carno will never be severed.

She is buried in the small churchyard along with her late husband Bernard, not far from where they set up a factory that was to launch their worldwide fashion business.

Jeremy Barnes, of Carno Station Action Group, said residents were keen to establish a museum in her name at Carno Station.

Enthusiasts are working towards

reopening the building as a working railway station, with a cafe and tourist information centre, on the Cambrian line from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth.

Mr Barnes said: "We are hoping to get Wales Economy Secretary Ken Skates to spend some of his £8.3 million Visit Wales budget in Mid Wales and to shine a light on us."

"There is tremendous support for this idea locally where there is a real fondness for Laura Ashley and what she achieved."

"The station would enable many people to commute by train, rather than use their cars. The building is in a good condition generally, it just needs refurbishment and remodelling."

"We were delighted to meet regional assembly member Eluned Morgan to discuss the case for reopening the station in the village, which provides a lifeline to residents and small busi-

nesses in Carno and, with no bus service in the evening, young people without cars are unable to get to town." Carno Station was closed in the 1960s as part of Dr Beeching's closure programme and the buildings now form part of the former Laura Ashley factory. The action group has campaigned for the station reopening, or a new station, for many years. Currently, the construction of the station has been pencilled in for the medium term but more assessment of timetable issues has to be carried out.

The 1970s were halcyon days for Laura Ashley as the world became hooked on the label's romantic silhouettes, nostalgic frills and floral prints. In one week alone, London's Fulham Road shop sold 4,000 dresses.

Towards the end of the decade the company launched its first home furnishing range.

Lytham St Annes Turkey & Tinsel

Just a short distance from the neighbouring resort of Blackpool, St Anne's is a more serene, less commercialised location with beautiful gardens and a traditional pier. Lytham St Annes has been voted a top 10 place in the North West to live.

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Pointless Celebrities

5.45pm

Celebrity version of the quiz, featuring stars from the 1970s. The contestants are Pan's People dancers Dee Dee Wilde and Babs Powell, boxer John Conteh and footballer Alan Mullery, Blake's Seven stars Michael Keating and Jacqueline Pearce, and Martin Lee and Sandra Stevens from Brotherhood of Man.



Gardeners' World

5pm

At Longmeadow, Monty Don gives advice on the plants that need winter protection and thinks ahead to colourful spring bouquets by planting bulbs in the cutting garden. Carol Klein heads to Worcestershire in search of some autumn colour, in a garden designed to reach its peak of flowering in October.



Meet the Parents

7pm

Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad. Each week, one man and one woman must choose from three potential partners, with their decisions solely based on an encounter with the contestants' parents.



8 Out of 10 Cats Does

Countdown

9pm

Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz. Guest captain Richard Ayoade is joined by Rob Beckett, going up against Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman, with Adam Riches and Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner.



NCIS: New Orleans

8pm

Radio show DJ Kayla Anderson indirectly witnesses the murder of a U Navy captain when she hears him being shot dead over the phone during an on-air call. As the team investigate the first death, Kayla receives another call, this time from the shooter, indicating her life may be in danger to

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. Rick Stein presents, with chefs Tom Sellers and Bryn Williams on hand to prepare a selection of tasty dishes. Plus, singer-songwriter Katie Melua faces her food heaven or hell.
11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. Clever cooking techniques. (R)
12.00 Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Chelsea v Manchester United, as Jose Mourinho visits Stamford Bridge for the first time since his sacking.
1.00 BBC News; Weather.
1.15 Bargain Hunt. Philip Serrell and Catherine Southon provide expert advice as the antiques competition heads to Exeter, while Tim Wonnacott visits Sherborne Castle in Dorset. (R)
2.15 Escape to the Country. A couple with a budget of £575,000 search for the perfect home in rural Devon. (R)
3.00 Homes Under the Hammer. Developers Lucy Alexander and Martin Roberts explore a former office block in Folkestone, Kent, a house in Willaston, Cheshire, and a mid-terraced property in Edmonton, London. (R)
4.00 Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.
5.25 BBC News.
5.35 Midlands Today; Weather.
5.45 Pointless Celebrities. The stars of the 1970s compete in the general knowledge quiz.
6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the couples show off their skills on the dance-floor yet again – minus Naga and Pasha, who were voted off last week. The results are tomorrow at 7.15pm.
8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. New series. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws with Gaby Roslin.
9.10 Casualty. Robyn panics about Glen's sudden disappearance, and it seems she might be about to lose her baby. Meanwhile, Ethan plucks up the courage to ask Alicia on a date.
10.00 BBC News; Weather.
10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Tottenham Hotspur, and Liverpool v West Bromwich Albion; **National Lottery Update.**
11.50 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream. Romesh Ranganathan visits Canada for a family reunion and starts by helping out his seven-year-old cousin in a breakdancing performance at the local primary school.
12.20 FILM: Rogue (2007). A party of tourists taking a boat trip in an uncharted part of the Australian Outback is attacked by a ferocious crocodile. Thriller, starring Radha Mitchell and Michael Vartan.
1.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.55 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.15 FILM: Flight for Freedom (1943).** Drama, starring Rosalind Russell.
7.55 Coast. (R)
8.25 FILM: Wonder Man (1945). Comedy musical, starring Danny Kaye and Virginia Mayo.
10.00 Natural World: Heligan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R)
11.00 Natural World: Jungle Gremlins of Java. (R)
12.00 Great British Menu. The first of the Northern Ireland heats. (R)
12.30 Great British Menu. The Northern Ireland chefs try to impress the judges with their fish courses. (R)
1.00 Great British Menu. Chris McGowan, Eddie Attwell and Mark Abbott prepare their main courses. (R)
1.30 Ingrid Bergman: Talking Pictures. (R)
2.00 FILM: Notorious (1946). Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant.
3.40 Flog It!
4.00 Nature's Weirdest Events. An Australian town plagued by giant bats. (R)
5.00 Gardeners' World. Monty Don gives advice on the plants that need winter protection. (R)
6.00 Inside the Commons. Speaker John Bercow runs into trouble with his plans for reforming the House. Last in the series. (R)
7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Reigning Bake Off champion Nadiya Hussain and Scottish Conservative Party leader Ruth Davidson are among those joining host Jo Brand to discuss the semi-final stage. (R)
7.30 Dad's Army. The platoon plans to re-enact the battle between St George and the dragon as part of the Wings for Victory fundraising effort – unaware the ARP wardens have the same idea. (R)
8.00 The School That Got Teens Reading. Documentary charting a Lancashire school's efforts to inspire reluctant pupils to get into the reading habit, with help from comedian Javone Prince and Blue Peter's Helen Skelton.
9.00 FILM: The Invisible Woman (2013). Premiere. A Victorian former actress recalls her secret relationship with Charles Dickens. Fact-based period drama, directed by and starring Ralph Fiennes, with Felicity Jones.
10.45 Artsnight: The Man Booker Prize 2016. David Baddiel introduces this year's Man Booker Prize shortlist, while Mariella Frostrup, Val McDermid and George "the Poet" Mpanga meet some of the nominated authors.
11.15 FILM: Revolutionary Road (2008). A married couple live a picture-perfect life on the surface, but in truth feel stifled by their situation. Sam Mendes' 1950s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio.
1.05 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R)
2.05 FILM: Renoir (2012). Drama, starring Michel Bouquet.
3.50 This Is BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**
6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids
6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.45** Sooty **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story **7.00** Super 4 **7.15** Oddbods **7.25** Scrambled! **7.30** Nerds & Monsters **7.50** Horrid Henry **8.10** Looped **8.30** DC Super Hero Girls: Super Hero High **9.05** Adventure Time
9.25 ITV News.
9.30 Murder, She Wrote. A writer's assistant is killed. (R)
10.25 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica fights to save one of New York's historic houses. (R)
11.20 Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
12.25 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
12.30 Cash Trapped. Quiz, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
1.30 Puppy Secrets: The First Six Months. Part one of two. Documentary charting the lives of four puppy litters. (R)
2.30 Big Star's Little Star. With Harry Redknapp, Vincent Simone and Debra Stephenson. (R)
3.30 Thunderbirds Are Go. New series. Alan and John answer a distress call.
4.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. International Rescue try to save a geological survey team.
4.25 Ninja Warrior UK. The second semi-final of the obstacle-course challenge. (R)
5.30 ITV News Central; Weather.
5.45 ITV News and Weather.
6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Rufus Hound, Nadia Sawalha and JB Gill answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.
7.00 Meet the Parents. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.
8.00 The X Factor. The live stage of the talent contest continues, as the remaining acts perform songs by Divas in front of the judges – and the millions of viewers at home. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.
9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to Cold Feet stars James Nesbitt, John Thomson and Fay Ripley, comedian Joe Lycett, and Phil Collins, who will also be performing in the studio.
10.55 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
11.15 FILM: Carry On Cruising (1962). The captain of a cruise ship is less than impressed with the bungling antics of five new recruits who have replaced his regular crew. Comedy, with Sid James and Kenneth Williams.
12.50 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica runs into an old friend. (R)
3.50 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

Channel 4

- 6.10 Gillette World Sport.** Action from the World Superbike and World Rally Championships.
6.40 Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship. The Six Hours of Fuji.
7.05 Motor Sport: Caterham. Action from a recent race at Donington Park.
7.35 Frasier. Martin starts work as a security guard. (R)
8.00 Frasier. Roz dates a dustman. (R)
8.30 Frasier. A party takes an unpleasant turn. (R)
9.00 The Morning Line.
10.00 The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon and Amy spend Thanksgiving together as friends.
10.25 The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon is driven to distraction when a tune becomes stuck in his head.
10.55 The Simpsons. Homer becomes a celebrity. (R)
11.25 The Simpsons. Homer tackles a biker gang. (R)
11.55 The Simpsons. The family relocates to a farm. (R)
12.25 Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. Items include a vintage Marilyn Monroe film poster.
1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races from Doncaster, Cheltenham and Newbury.
4.20 Four in a Bed. The final day of the contest arrives.
4.55 My Kitchen Rules UK. Guest judge Allegra McEvedy sets a cooking challenge.
5.50 The Crystal Maze SU2C Celebrity Special. Stephen Merchant hosts a one-off revival of the game show. (R)
Channel 4 News.
7.05 Hunt for the Arctic Ghost Ship. Cameras follow the multi-million-dollar 2014 expedition that discovered the Victorian ship HMS Erebus, intact and upright on the Arctic sea floor. (R)
8.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. Tony follows the Ridgeway from the Wiltshire Downs to the banks of the Thames. Along the way, he visits a world-famous stone circle and explores an ancient burial chamber.
9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the quiz. Guest captain Richard Ayoade is joined by Rob Beckett, going up against Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman.
10.00 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position in the 18th round of the season from the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.
11.30 FILM: Locke (2013). A man facing the biggest challenge of his career finds his life unraveling over the course of one car journey after a single fateful decision. Thriller, with Tom Hardy.
1.10 FILM: The Great Beauty (2013). Comedy drama, starring Toni Servillo.
3.35 Hollyoaks. (R)
5.45 Food Unwrapped. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey** **6.10** Peppa Pig **6.15** Angelina Ballerina **6.25** Bob the Builder **6.40** Wanda and the Alien **6.50** Zack and Quack **7.00** Pets **7.05** Fireman Sam **7.20** Pip Ahoy! **7.35** Little Princess **7.50** Paw Patrol **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.30** Noddy in Toyland **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **9.00** Shimmer and Shine **9.30** Peppa Pig **9.40** Peppa Pig **9.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
10.35 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
11.10 FILM: Carry On Sergeant (1958). Comedy, starring William Hartnell.
12.40 FILM: Carry On Regardless (1961). Slapstick comedy, starring Sid James.
2.25 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A man claims to be renting a couple's old family home. (R)
3.25 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords Revisited 2. Revisiting some of the cases featured in the show's first run. (R)
4.25 Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. The enforcement agents are caught in the crossfire of three bitter family disputes. (R)
5.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. A pair of pensioners in Oxfordshire struggle to pay off a £4,000 legal bill. (R)
6.20 NCIS. As Christmas approaches, the team works overtime to solve a robbery – a case made doubly difficult by the fact that the prime suspect has supposedly been dead for 17 years. (R)
7.05 NCIS. McGee is sent to a women's prison to interview a murder suspect, but ends up being captured and held hostage by the inmates, who are afraid they will be blamed for killing a guard. (R)
8.00 NCIS: New Orleans. A radio show DJ overhears the murder of a US Navy captain via an on-air call, and when the killer later threatens her life, the team must keep her safe while chasing the culprit.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Aston Villa v Fulham, and Huddersfield Town v Derby County.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Bradford City v Sheffield United, and Blackpool v Doncaster Rovers.
10.30 FILM: Redbelt (2008). Premiere. A martial arts instructor is forced to compromise his principles after a run of bad luck. Drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Alice Braga.
12.15 SuperCasino.
13.10 Police Interceptors. (R)
4.00 Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R)
4.50 Nick's Quest. (R)
5.15 Nick's Quest. (R)
5.40 Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)



Countryfile

6.15pm

Anita Rani visits a commercial walnut harvest in Somerset, while Matt Baker meets a man in East Sussex who spent six months living off grid in a tree house made of recycled wood, while Naomi Wilkinson discovers how conkers became a valuable resource during the First World War.



Horizon: The Wildest Weather in the Universe

8pm

Documentary following scientists conducting research into weather on other planets, using the latest telescopes to examine distant worlds. Their findings have revealed strange phenomena including rains of precious stones and supersonic winds.



The Chase Celebrity Special

7pm

Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Angellica Bell, Oritse Williams, Leslie Ash and Ian Lavender pit their wits against quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team to race down the game board to the exit.



Virginia McKenna's Born Free

7pm

The actress returns to the Kenyan locations of the classic movie to mark its 50th anniversary. Virginia shares her experiences of working alongside wild lions, revealing how she was able to earn the animals' trust, and reflects on how the film changed public perceptions of wildlife.



Ice Road Truckers

8pm

Ice road rookie Mike attempts his first solo delivery, while Polar's top dog Todd Dewey runs into trouble and truck problems slow Art's season to a halt. New business owners Lisa and Darrell secure a high-stakes mission to deliver some desperately needed electrical transformers to a distant town.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Breakfast.**
- 7.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Tottenham Hotspur, and Liverpool v West Bromwich Albion. (R)
- 9.00 **The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 **Sunday Morning Live.** Naga Munchetty presents a topical debate covering religious, moral and ethical issues, with guest panelists and contributions from viewers.
- 11.00 **Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
- 12.15 **Bargain Hunt.** Two teams compete in Lewes, East Sussex. (R)
- 1.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
- 1.15 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Developers Lucy Alexander and Martin Roberts explore properties about to be auctioned in Kent, Carlisle and Derby, and find out what happened after the sale. (R)
- 2.15 **Escape to the Country.** Searching for a property in Hampshire. (R)
- 3.00 **Points of View.** Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
- 3.15 **The Great British Bake Off.** The semi final arrive as the bakers enter patisserie week. (R)
- 4.15 **Songs of Praise.** Aled Jones talks to survivors of the Aberfan disaster.
- 4.50 **Attenborough & the Giant Dinosaur.** Uncovering the remains of the largest known dinosaur. (R)
- 5.50 **BBC News.**
- 6.05 **Midlands Today;** Weather.
- 6.15 **Countryfile.** Anita Rani visits a commercial walnut harvest in Somerset, while Matt Baker meets a man in East Sussex who spent six months living off grid in a tree house. Including weather for the week ahead.
- 7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's contest, and the two lowest scoring couples compete in a dance-off. LeAnn Rimes is this week's guest singer.
- 8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team value more rarities at Baddesley Clinton, near Solihull, including a rare silver box and a painting entitled The Nudist Colony's Annual Dinner Dance.
- 9.00 **Poldark.** Ross and Dwight face trial after the disastrous smuggling incident. George continues to send men to make Elizabeth feel threatened – then offers to help if she will marry him.
- 10.00 **BBC News.**
- 10.20 **Midlands Today;** Weather.
- 10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman presents Premier League highlights, including Chelsea v Manchester United at Stamford Bridge, as Jose Mourinho returned to the club where he won three league titles.
- 11.30 **FILM: Eagle Eye (2008).** Two strangers go on the run from the authorities after receiving phone calls warning their lives are in danger. Thriller, with Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan and Rosario Dawson.
- 1.15 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.20 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.15 **The A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter K. (R)
- 7.00 **Glorious Gardens from Above.** Christine Walkden takes to the skies above Cumbria. (R)
- 7.45 **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don gives advice on the plants that need winter protection. (R)
- 8.45 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Anita Rani explore the Isle of Wight. (R)
- 9.45 **The Beechgrove Garden.** How to make cheap-but-pretty paths.
- 10.15 **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.
- 11.45 **Food & Drink.** A discussion on Italian food with guest Angela Hartnett. (R)
- 12.15 **MOTD2 Extra.** Mark Chapman and guests focus on the headlines from yesterday's matches.
- 1.00 **Great British Menu.** The Northern Ireland hopefuls serve up their desserts. (R)
- 1.30 **Great British Menu.** The two highest-scoring chefs from Northern Ireland cook once more. (R)
- 2.00 **American Football: NFL Live.** Los Angeles Rams v New York Giants (Kick-off 2.30pm).
- 6.00 **Who's Spending Britain's Billions?** A look into how UK taxes are being applied. Jacques Peretti asks if the public deserve to know more about how those charged with managing Britain's billions are spending it. (R)
- 7.00 **Inside Obama's White House.** The story of how Barack Obama resolved to reform the healthcare system in the United States, despite stern opposition from the Republicans and within his own party. (R)
- 8.00 **Horizon: The Wildest Weather in the Universe.** Scientists conducting research into weather on other planets, who have discovered strange phenomena including rains of precious stones, supersonic winds and world-spanning storms.
- 9.00 **Wild West: America's Great Frontier.** The series concludes with a journey along America's West coast, exploring the impact of the ocean on the landscape and animals gathering in the Sea of Cortez. Last in the series.
- 10.00 **Mock the Week.** Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Ivo Graham and Romesh Ranganathan join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)
- 10.35 **QI XL.** New series. Extended edition of Sandi Toksvig's debut as host, in which Alan Davies, Ciaran Lloyd, Romesh Ranganathan and Phill Jupitus answer questions associated with the letter n.
- 11.20 **FILM: Downfall (2004).** Fact-based Second World War drama recreating the final days of Adolf Hitler and his most loyal followers as they hide out in their bunker. Starring Bruno Ganz and Julianne Kohler.
- 1.45 **Sign Zone: Aberfan: The Fight for Justice.** (R)
- 2.45 **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)
- 3.40 **Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)
- 4.40 **This is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**
- 6.10 **Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids**
- 6.20 **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** 6.35 **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** 6.45 **Sooty** 6.55 **Signed Stories: Share a Story** 7.00 **Super 4** 7.15 **Oddbods**
- 7.25 **Scrambled! Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun. (R)
- 7.30 **Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)
- 7.50 **Scrambled! Horrid Henry.** Cartoon. (R)
- 8.10 **Scrambled! Looped.**
- 8.30 **Scrambled! Thunderbirds Are Go.** International Rescue try to save a geological survey team. (R)
- 9.05 **Scrambled! Adventure Time.** Fun for children. (R)
- 9.25 **ITV News.**
- 9.30 **Bear Grylls Survival School.** The youngsters must abseil down a 110-foot cliff into freezing water.
- 10.00 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine.
- 11.00 **Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy.** Gino D'Acampo heads to the northern state of Trentino Alto-Adige. (R)
- 11.25 **Chopping Block.** Four couples face three Spanish-related cooking challenges. (R)
- 12.30 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 12.40 **The X Factor.** The live stage of the talent contest continues. (R)
- 2.30 **Midsomer Murders.** Barnaby investigates a solicitor's death. (R)
- 4.30 **Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 5.30 **Doc Martin.** The doctor prepares for his wedding. (R)
- 6.30 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
- 6.45 **ITV News and Weather.**
- 7.00 **The Chase Celebrity Special.** Angellica Bell, Oritse Williams, Leslie Ash and Ian Lavender work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.
- 8.00 **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents last night's results, before the two lowest-scoring contestants compete in a sing-off.
- 9.00 **Tutankhamun.** Carter returns to the Valley of the Kings to complete his search as the First World War draws to a close, but has to contend with Anti-British sentiment sweeping across Egypt.
- 10.00 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 10.15 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
- 11.15 **Murder, She Wrote.** Disaster strikes on the set of a TV sitcom when the producer is killed in cold blood – leaving Jessica to determine whether one of the show's actors might have done the deed. (R)
- 12.10 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 **Motorsport UK.** Highlights from Rockingham.
- 3.50 **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** The latest action.
- 5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 **Shipping Wars.** Roy helps a community affected by wildfires.
- 6.40 **Shipping Wars.** Jennifer clashes with a meticulous pastry chef.
- 7.05 **Frasier.** Roz takes up the piano. (R)
- 7.30 **Frasier.** The shrink celebrates his 2,000th radio broadcast. (R)
- 8.00 **Frasier.** Niles and Frasier compete for a wine tour. (R)
- 8.30 **Posh Pawnbrokers.** Charlie and Patrick consider an offer for a crystal-covered vodka bottle.
- 9.30 **Sunday Brunch.** With guests Peter Davison, Ross Noble, Catherine Tate and James Buckley.
- 12.30 **Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** Comedian Jack Whitehall joins the hosts. (R)
- 1.30 **FILM: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004).** Comedy adventure, starring Jim Carrey.
- 3.35 **Child Genius vs Celebrities: SU2C Special.** Richard Osman hosts a quiz show featuring gifted youngsters. (R)
- 4.35 **FILM: Sister Act (1992).** Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg.
- 6.30 **Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 **Virginia McKenna's Born Free.** The actress returns to the locations of the classic movie about a lion being reared by humans to reflect on the making of the film and its impact on environmentalism.
- 8.00 **Great Canal Journeys.** New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales take a trip to Bristol, where Timothy is soon to play King Lear at the Old Vic, and revisit both their childhood homes in Devon.
- 9.00 **FILM: The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014).** Premiere. A lobby boy in a 1930s hotel is drawn into the misadventures of the establishment's dashing concierge. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, with Ralph Fiennes and Tony Revolori.
- 11.00 **Formula 1 United States Grand Prix Highlights.** Steve Jones presents action from the 18th round of the season at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas.
- 1.00 **FILM: Baggage Claim (2013).** An air hostess uses her job to identify potential candidates in a bid to get a fiancé before her sister's wedding. Romantic comedy, with Paula Patton and Taye Diggs.
- 2.35 **Food Unwrapped.** Jimmy Doherty visits a subterranean salt-processing plant. (R)
- 3.05 **Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.** Kirstie Allsopp tries out recipes for Cornish pasties and Yorkshire puddings. (R)
- 3.20 **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** The property expert helps two brothers in Largs, Ayrshire, whose inherited bungalow has been on the market for more than 11 months, but has failed to attract a buyer. (R)
- 4.15 **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer guide artist Zena Ellis as she takes her first step on to the housing ladder, and new parents Lysan and Bo Cheng, who hope to move to Bedfordshire. (R)
- 5.10 **Deal or No Deal.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 **Milkshake!:** Milkshake! Monkey 6.05 **Milkshake!:** Bop Box 6.10 **Peppa Pig** 6.15 **Angelina Ballerina** 6.25 **Bob the Builder** 6.40 **Wanda and the Alien** 6.50 **Zack and Quack** 7.00 **Pets** 7.05 **Fireman Sam** 7.20 **Pip Ahoy!** 7.40 **Little Princess** 7.55 **Paw Patrol** 8.15 **Blaze and the Monster Machines**
- 8.40 **Football on 5: The Championship.** Highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship. (R)
- 9.30 **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Goals from the weekend's games in the Leagues One and Two. (R)
- 10.00 **Great South Run.** Live coverage of the race from Portsmouth and Southsea.
- 12.05 **The Gadget Show.** How 3D printers are coming of age. (R)
- 1.05 **Funnyest Fails, Falls & Flops.** Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong. (R)
- 1.35 **FILM: Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (2011).** Comedy, with Martin Lawrence.
- 3.40 **FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010).** Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell.
- 5.15 **Now That's Funny!** The strange world of performance art. Last in the series.
- 6.15 **FILM: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (1995).** The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of exile in a Buddhist monastery to search for a missing sacred bat in the African jungle. Comedy sequel, with Jim Carrey and Simon Callow. Edited for sex and language. Includes 5 News Update at 7.15pm.
- 8.00 **Ice Road Truckers.** Ice road rookie Mike attempts his first solo delivery, while Lisa and Darrell secure a high-stakes mission to deliver some urgently needed electrical transformers to a distant town.
- 8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 **FILM: Need for Speed (2014).** Premiere. An ex-convict returns to the illegal street racing circuit to get revenge for his unjust imprisonment. Action adventure, with Aaron Paul, Dominic Cooper and Imogen Poots. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.
- 11.30 **FILM: Takers (2010).** Six bank robbers plan a lucrative armoured car robbery, but a determined police officer is closing in on them. Crime thriller, starring Paul Walker, Matt Dillon and Idris Elba.
- 1.30 **SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 **The Yorkshire Vet.** Julian is called to a heifer in agony. (R)
- 4.00 **Criminals Caught On Camera.** Nick Wallis meets a seasoned CCTV operator in Stafford. (R)
- 4.50 **House Doctor.** A West Midlands home is overhauled. (R)
- 5.15 **House Doctor.** A couple from Milton Keynes hope to move to France. (R)
- 5.40 **Angels of Jarm.** The children argue about their hats. (R)
- 5.50 **Roary the Racing Car.** Roary has an argument with Cici. (R)

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deaths

BROWN

Rose

Passed away peacefully on
October 5, 2016, aged 92 years.
Beloved Wife of the late Alf;
much loved Mum of Wendy,
Peter and David and their
Partners Ray, Lynn and Gill,
loving Nan of Debbie, Sara,
Martin, Clare, Jane, Rob and
Deb and their Partners, also
and a loving Great-Nan and
Great-Great-Nan. Will be
sadly missed.

Funeral Service at
Pentrebychan Crematorium,
Wrexham, on Monday,
October 24, at 11am.

Family flowers only. Donations
if desired to Hope
House Children's Repite
Hospice.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

EDWARDS

Karen

(Kaz)

Beloved Mum to Jade and
Jasmin and a cherished
Sister to Jan, passed away surrounded
by her loving
Family.

The Funeral Service will take
place in Holy Trinity Church,
Meole Brace, Shrewsbury on
Friday, October 21, at 3pm, followed
by a private Family
Committal.

Family flowers only please,
however there will be a
retiring collection at Church.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM

Funeral Directors,

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JONES

Richard John Francis

(John).

Of Radbrook Nursing Home,
formerly of Bicton Heath.
Very dearly loved Brother,
Stepfather, Uncle and a good
Friend to many. Passed away
peacefully on October 10,
2016, in his 90th year.

Funeral Service will take
place at St George's Church,
Frankwell on Wednesday,
October 26, 2016, at 1.30pm.

Family flowers only please,
however all kind donations
received will support the
work of The Shropshire
Breathing Club and Hope
House.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM

Funeral Directors,

Frankwell Island,

Shrewsbury,

01743 368999

SANDERSON

Carole

Passed away peacefully on
October 13, 2016, aged 70
years. Will be sadly missed by
all her Family and Friends.

Requiem Mass at Our Lady
and St. Oswald's Roman
Catholic Church, Oswestry
on Monday, October 24,
at 1.30pm, followed by Interment
at Oswestry Cemetery.

Family flowers only. Donations
if desired to Nightingale
Hospice, Wrexham.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

WHITTALL

Winnie

Of Pontesbury, formerly of
Bentlawnt.

Beloved Wife of Jack, loving
and much loved Mum to
Brian, Barry, Jayne and
Diane, Mum-in-law to Colin
and Sandra, cherished Nanny
to Katie, passed away peacefully
in hospital surrounded
by her loving Family.

The Funeral Ceremony will
be held in Emstrey Crematorium,
Shrewsbury on Monday,
October 24, at 12.30pm.

A splash of colour to be worn
please.

Family flowers only please,
however all donations will
support the work of The
County Air Ambulance.

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Simon Williams, General Manager, Cold Move Ltd.
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Mid-sized SUV is a strong contender

Michael Weston

Skoda enters the mid-sized SUV segment with this Kodiah, a model with class-leading passenger space, plenty of luxurious touches and the option of seven seats.

It can tow up to 2.5-tonnes and has the largest boot in the class too. In other words, you'd have to take this contender seriously.

The mainstream Kodiah engine range is built around two TDI diesel units and a trio of TSI petrol powerplants.

Most will want the 2.0-litre TDI unit, offered with either 150 or 190PS, with the pokier version able to accelerate this large SUV to 62mph in 8.6s on the way to 130mph. The range of petrol engines consists of two 1.4 TSI units, plus a 2.0 TSI powerplant.

The entry-level 1.4 TSI generates 125PS and 200Nm of torque, while the pokier 1.4 option manages 150PS and 250Nm of pulling power.

The top-of-the-range 2.0TSI petrol engine develops 180PS with a decent 320Nm of torque. It'll be a rare choice though.

Possibly of more interest than the engines on offer will be the freshly-developed 7-speed dual-clutch auto gearbox, an option to the standard 6-speed manual with some variants. An optional 'Driving Mode Select' system enables the driver to tweak throttle response, steering feel and auto gearshift timings, plus on 4x4 versions there's a 'Snow' setting that optimises things for off road use.

Front wheel drive is mandatory on the 1.4 TSI 125PS petrol Kodiah and optional on the 1.4 TSI 150PS or 2.0 TDI 150PS derivatives. Most will want 4WD though and you have to have it on top petrol and diesel units that must



The interior includes a 6.5-inch infotainment screen



In profile – the Skoda Kodiah is a handsome option

also be coupled with the auto transmission.

The Kodiah's styling conforms to the way you'd expect a big Skoda SUV to look, with a clear, precise and clean-cut shape marked out by a distinctive, highly recessed shoulder line. The wide, three-dimensional radiator grille is quite striking and the narrow, raked headlights look distinctive in appearance. The Kodiah is one of the biggest VW Group models to be spun off the conglomerate's MQB platform.

It's around 4.7m in length and the long wheelbase and short overhangs point to a large interior.

That's certainly what you get once you take

a seat inside. This is a much bigger SUV than the brand's Yeti, which ample room for heads, legs and knees. The boot's huge too, large enough in fact to accommodate the optional fold-out third seating row that rival Volkswagen Tiguan and SEAT Ateca SUVs can't offer.

If you stick with the five-seat variant, there's a 720-litre cargo area, extendable to 2,065-litres once you fold the rear bench.

If the optional folding passenger seat is chosen, this SUV can transport items up to 2.80m long. An electrically operated tailgate is available, and a Kodiah fitted with a drivetrain can tow a trailer weighing up to

The wide, three-dimensional radiator grille is striking and the narrow, raked headlights look distinctive in appearance



2.5-tonnes. It's all very practical. Approach purchase of a Kodiah armed with a budget in the £28,000 to £35,000 bracket and you'll find you've managed your expectations about right. That's about the same kind of money you'd need for obvious family SUV rivals that offer 7-seat options, cars like Kia's Sorento, Hyundai's Santa Fe and Mitsubishi's Outlander.

Equipment levels are quite generous. Even entry-level variants get Skoda's 'Swing' infotainment system with its 6.5-inch screen. It can be supplemented with a smartphone Bluetooth connection and the 'Skoda SmartLink' set-up. 'SmartLink' supports the use of Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and

MirrorLink. Plus there's a 'Phonebox' option that charges a smartphone inductively using the Qi standard and connects to the car aerial – both processes occur wirelessly. There's also the opportunity of specifying a 'Skoda Connect' package that gives you various online services, remote access to your car via a downloadable app and a 'Care Connect' system that provides emergency assistance.

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MOTING



Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupé is now available with a V6 3.0-litre diesel

E-Class Estate and GLC Coupé range expanded

By James Parker

Three new engines have been added to the E-Class Estate range, which now starts at £36,735 for the E 200 d SE. The E 350 d SE is priced from £47,255, while the Mercedes-AMG E 43 costs £58,290. The existing E 220 d Estate starts from £38,230.

The 200 d features the latest 2.0-litre diesel engine with an output of 150 hp and CO2 emissions of just 109 g/km. It delivers 65.7 mpg on the combined cycle. The 3.0-litre V6 E 350 d produces 258 hp while delivering up to 48.7 mpg and emitting 140 g/km of CO2.

The Mercedes-AMG E 43 4MATIC Estate features a bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine which generates 401 hp – enabling it to reach 62 mph from standstill in 4.7 seconds. All E-Class engines come as standard with a 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission (with shorter shift times for the E 43). Standard specification on the E-Class Estate mirrors that in the E-Class Saloon, but with the addition of standard split-folding rear seats. Command Online with a 12.3-inch screen comes as standard on the E 350 d, and customers can add to this with the 12.3-inch cockpit display for £495.

For the first time, the E 220 d Saloon is available with 4MATIC four-wheel drive – it's priced from £37,730 (£1,500 over the rear-wheel drive 220 d). It accelerates from 0 to 62 mph in 7.5



Mercedes-AMG E 43 4MATIC Estate features a bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine

seconds, and has rear-biased torque distribution of 45:55.

All E-Class Estate models are now available with an optional folding bench seat in the boot, for £1,250. This provides an extra rear-facing two Artico-covered seats – which are specifically designed for use by children under 115 cm (3 ft 9 in) in height – and is stored under the load compartment floor when not in use. An Easy-Pack load securing kit can be specified for an additional £295. This provides rails in the load compartment floor with a telescopic bar that means luggage can be safely clamped against the rear seats or side wall.

An AMG carbon fibre package is

available on both Mercedes-AMG E 43 bodystyles for £1,575 – it includes exterior mirror casings and an AMG spoiler lip (saloon only) finished in carbon fibre.

The GLC Coupé is now also available with the V6 3.0-litre diesel, producing 258 hp. The GLC 350 d 4MATIC Coupé can sprint from 0 to 62 mph in 6.2 seconds, emits 161 g/km of CO2 and delivers up to 47.1 mpg on the combined cycle. It is available from £47,135. The Mercedes-AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupé can now be ordered from £50,960. Its bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine produces 367 hp, making for 0-62 mph in 4.9 seconds and an electronically limited top speed of 155 mph.

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Goalkeeper Mullock on target from 70 yards



On-loan keeper Chris Mullock

TNS goalkeeper Chris Mullock, on loan with Aberystwyth Town, had a night to remember as the Black and Greens christened their new 3G pitch at Park Avenue with a 4-0 romp against Rhyl.

Despite playing in goal, Mullock became the first player to score on the new surface when lobbing his opposite number Owen Evans with a free kick from all of 70 yards on 20 minutes.

His effort is certain to be a contender for one of the goals of the season, and set up a convincing win with Geoff Kellaway scoring a second a minute later before Luke Borelli added two more on 76 and 78 minutes.

The game, played in front of the Welsh Premier's largest crowd of the season - 1,168 - was tarnished by a midfield brawl late on that saw five yellow cards and Rhyl's Alex Jones sent off.

Hot Harvey at the double for Ellesmere

YOUTH teamer Harvey Evetts was among the scorers as Ellesmere Rangers, handily placed in fifth spot in the West Midlands League first division, beat lowly Dudley Town 3-1 at Beech Grove.

Sean Griffiths, who produced a man of the match display, and Karl Bailey were also on target for Rangers.

Ellesmere travel to Hereford to take on mid-table Pegasus Juniors on Saturday.

Newport Town are up to second after a 5-1 win at home to Wryley. Robbie Millington (2), Shane Thomas (2) and Nicky Porter were on target for Town.

Wern Town went down 4-1 at home to runaway leaders Hereford Lads Club who made it 12 straight wins.

n Haughmond ran riot in an eight-goal thriller against hereford side Wellington to storm to the summit of the West Midlands premier division. They won 6-2.

High fives as Waterloo are marching on

WATERLOO Rovers stepped up the pressure in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one with a 5-1 hammering of Llanyrnnech.

Victory took Rovers up to second spot in the table, five points behind leaders Llanfyllin, but they do have three games in hand. Mike Whitehouse netted a consolation for Llany.

High-Flying Llanfyllin were held 3-3 at Caersws reserves, while Guilsfield thumped defending champions Llanfair reserves 4-0 to lift themselves up to third.

Results

Division one: Berriew Res v Morda United (postponed), Caersws Res 3 Llanyfyllin Town 3, Llanfair United Res 0 Guilsfield Res 4, Waterloo Rovers 5 Llanyrnnech 1.

Division two: Abermule Res 3 Llangedwyn 4, Bishop's Castle 5 Llanfchain 0, Kerry Res 4 Treflawn 2.

Newtown AFC League Cup, round two: Newtown Wanderers 4 Carno Res 1, Trewern United 0 Meifod 4.

Clarke joining Foster on Aussie tour

FORMER Shropshire and Shrewsbury skipper John Foster will pit his wits against ex-Australian Test star Graham Yallop when England Over 60s tour Down Under next month.

Yallop will skipper the Aussies against Foster's England squad in three ODI test matches taking place on a tour over four weeks in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide. And Foster is relishing the chance to lock horns with the former Australian skipper who played 39 Tests and 30 One Day Internationals for his country, including being part of the famous 'Botham's Ashes' tour of 1981.

Foster said: "It was a pleasant surprise to hear Graham will be playing. One of our aims is to raise

the profile of seniors' cricket and having a player of Graham's standing will help do just that."

"It is a real bonus for us to hear we are going to be challenged by a former Test player and it means we are all looking forward to the tour even more than we were before.

"It gives us a bit of an opportunity to create something more special and show that people of our age can still play an active part in the game. It is great that more and more 50/60 year-olds are still playing the game and some coming back to playing cricket at a time when the numbers in cricket generally are falling.

"And with Graham playing, hopefully that will

raise the profile of this tour even more."

The England tour party has been selected from cricketers who have played in the Seveent 60+ County Championship - a competition which has grown rapidly in the past few years.

John, who is Cricket Shropshire's Director of Performance and president at Shrewsbury Cricket Club, added: "The enthusiasm for the game is great to see, particularly as we still play old fashioned cricket - hard but fair and we have fun."

There are other Shropshire connections with the squad as the tour manager is Andrew Clarke from Oswestry, and the scorer will be Maggie Boyden who fulfils the same role for Shropshire Over 60s.

Guils hold nerve for vital win in Alliance

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

GUILDSFIELD stayed in touching distance of the leaders in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after securing a hard-fought 2-1 home success over struggling Ruthin Town.

Adam Jenkins made the breakthrough two minutes into the second half, and a Chris Williams own goal gave the Guils some breathing space before Kevin Evans pulled one back seven minutes from time to set up a tense finish.

It proved a tough encounter for Dan Barton's side, who were dealt a double injury blow with both Mark Davies and Jake Cook hobbling off.

After a goalless stalemate in the first period, the encounter burst into life in the second half as top scorer Jenkins headed the opener.

That advantage was doubled on 74 minutes as a Chris Cathrall long throw sparked confusion in the opposition box, and defender Williams could only turn the ball into his own net.

Louis Irvine went close to a third when rattling the post with a snap shot five minutes later, but Ruthin continued to battle as they made a mockery of their lowly league position.

Robbie James came off the bench for the Guils to clear a goal bound shot, but in the 83rd minutes the visitors gave themselves hope of salvaging the game when Evans reduced the arrears.

In a tense finish, the hosts had to rely on some good stops from keeper Dave Littleford to keep Ruthin at bay, while at the other end Jenkins squandered two late chances which both flew over the bar.

LLANFAIR UNITED suffered a day to forget as they crashed 5-0 a rejuvenated Mold Alex to remain in the lower reaches of the table.

They started well enough, had chances to have been ahead, but found themselves 3-0 down at half time.

After Lee Jones got a 15th minute opener, Andreas Economides netted twice on 29 and 35 minutes for a new-look Mold who have put their early season struggles behind them.

Charge

Even at half time, Llanfair still had hope of getting something from the game but a Steve Andrew own goal just after the interval had the home side in full charge. Sam Richardson completed the scoring 10 minutes into the second half.

"We were poor all round, but we had chances to have been 3-0 up ourselves," said boss Rhys Stephens. "We can't afford any more defeats like this, and we need to be more alert in both boxes."

Meanwhile, Josh Hartrick fired as hat-trick as Caersws got back to winning ways with a timely 5-3 at Holyhead Hotspur to make up ground on the leading pack.

After a flying start to the campaign, the Bluebirds had faltered of late but rediscovered their form to clinch a well deserved win on Anglesey.

Iwan Lewis gave them the lead just before half time with a neat finish after the home keeper had failed to deal with a Hartrick cross.

Holyhead levelled eight minutes after the break through a header from Asa Thomas, but the Bluebirds soared ahead with Hartrick opening his account from a Will Thomas back heel before adding a second following an Elliot Jones through ball.

Thomas then broke through to make it 4-1 on 73 minutes before a 30-yard thunderbolt from Jay Gibbs reduced the arrears moments later.

Caersws restored their three goal cushion when Hartrick completed his hat-trick on 78, before Gibbs bagged a consolation with his second in the closing moments.

Saturday's fixtures

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance (2.30): Caernarfon Town v Guilsfield, Caersws v Gresford Athletic, Flint Town United v Denbigh Town, Holyhead Hotspur v Northmadog, Holywell Town v Mold Alex, Llanfair United v Conwy Borough, Prestatyn Town v Penryncoch.

Another high five win for TNS



The New Saints Ryan Brobbel - who netted twice - in action against Llandudno at Park hall

The New Saints 5 Llandudno 0 IT was high fives all round again as The New Saints maintained their relentless charge at the top of the Dafabet Welsh Premier with a 5-0 romp against Llandudno at Park Hall.

Having put five goals past the Seasiders earlier in the season, the league leaders repeated the feat with another emphatic display to chalk up their 11th successive win.

Alex Darlington and Ryan Brobbel both scored twice, while Robbie Parry also found the net in another clinical exhibition from the TNS juggernaut.

The victory kept the Saints firmly in charge at the top of the table, and took their tally to 46 league goals for the season - far and away better than any other side in the league.

With his side averaging over four goals every game, boss Craig Harrison - whose name has unsurprisingly been linked with the vacant manager's job at Wrexham - praised his side's attacking intent.

"We have a desire to score goals, we are not just content to sit on one, two or three goal leads," he said. "We've got pace, and have young, dynamic players who are hungry, and in the second half I thought they played some fantastic stuff."

"Sometimes the game went back and front like a basketball game, sometimes you've got to rein it in, but one thing I'm not going to do is to rein in their enthusiasm."

It proved another stroll for the Saints, who were always in the ascendancy once Darlington's 25-yard shot eluded the grasp of keeper Dave Roberts low down in the 28th minute before finding the net via the right post.

Llandudno, who saw Danny Hughes and Lewis Buckley both denied by keeper Paul Harrison in the opening stages, struggled to seriously test the home goal after that.

And there was no way back once Parry doubled the lead 10 minutes before the break when back heeling the ball into the net from close range after Aeron Edwards had headed goalwards from Brobbel's right wing corner. The Saints emerged for the second half with real attacking purpose, Brobbel lashing his shot over the bar while Simon Sponder's powerful header forced a terrific save from keeper Roberts.

Man-of-the-match Brobbel put another shot over as TNS continued to dominate, before Darlington drilled his second and his side's third on 61 minutes after being teed up on the edge of the box by Greg Draper who had been denied by the advancing Roberts.

The goals continued to flow, with a cross from Chris Marriott on the left finding Brobbel on the edge of the box in the 73rd minute, before the former Middlesbrough man turned his marker and crashed a sweet strike inside the bottom left hand corner.

With the Oswestry hosts attacking at will, the scoring was

completed in the last minute when a strong run from substitute Wes Fletcher paved the way for Brobbel to steer home his second of the game.

■ Newtown remain at the foot of the Dafabet Welsh Premier after their poor run continued with a 3-1 loss at Carmarthen Town whose keeper Lee Idzi was the standout performer.

The Robins have won just once this season, that being at home to Carmarthen on the second day of the season, and had enough chances to have returned from a soggy Richmond Park with some reward. However, after trailing to a Liam Thomas opener on 13 minutes, the visitors found keeper Idzi in inspired form as they slipped to a fourth straight defeat.

Luke Boundford headed the Robins level at the far post after 23 minutes, but the Mid Wales side were unable to capitalise on further opportunities.

And they paid the price in the second half when home captain Dave Vincent headed home a Kyle Bassett cross, before a fine strike from Thomas, his second goal of the game, condemned Chris Hughes' side to another blank day.

■ The New Saints Ladies had a day to forget as they lost 10-1 at Loughborough Foxes in the FAW Women's Premier League Cup.

Charlotte Cooper led the way with a hat-trick for the unbeaten Midlands One pacesetters, with Becky Matlock and Emma Pilling also netting braces.

Town are toasting a high five win on road

FC OSWESTRY Town notched their fifth win of the season after pulling off a terrific 3-0 success at Silsden to further boost their prospects in the North West Counties League division one.

It proved a long trek for Town who made the 200-mile round trip to Yorkshire, but they returned in happy spirits after one of their best displays of the season.

Shawn Melusi put the visitors on course with a 10th minute opener, before Liam Molloy added a second right on half time.

Substitute Brendan Price sealed the win 12 minutes from time, lifting Town up to 12th in the table, and looking in good shape to climb higher.

Buoyed by the win, the Oswestry side were now looking to capitalise on two home games, welcoming St Helens Town to Park Hall in mid-week before entertaining Daisy Hill on Saturday.

Meanwhile, FC Oswestry Town Reserves maintained their unbeaten run in the Mercian Regional League division one with a 3-3 draw at home to Coven United.

However, it was a case of two points dropped after spurning a healthy three-goal lead in the encounter at Weston Rhyn.

Town bossed the first half and were quickly in front with Zakh Ward finishing off a flowing move involving Mark Lunt and Scott Valley.

The hosts continued to drive forward with efforts from Jordan Gerrard narrowly missing the target, before doubling their advantage through Mark Lunt who volleyed home from the edge of the box after 30 minutes.

Threat

Ward got his second of the game shortly before half time after beating the offside track to round the keeper and finish well to make it 3-0 at the break. However, it was a different story in the second half as Coven quickly scored with a free header to get themselves back into the game.

At the other end, Ward narrowly missed his hat-trick after hitting the bar from an acute angle, but the visitors were looking an increasing threat.

As Coven forced Town back towards their own goal, keeper Gareth Jones made a couple of smart saves, while defensive blocks from Jack Morris also kept their opponents at bay.

However, Coven pulled a second goal back on 75 minutes after a defensive mix-up saw Ben Williams head into his own net, before quickly grabbing an equaliser with a smart finish from a long ball that beat the Town defensive cover.

The Oswestry outfit had chances to win the game late on but had to settle for a share of the spoils that stretched their unbeaten run to five games.

Next up is lowly AFC Shifnal away on Saturday, with Town hoping to get back to winning ways as they look to make up ground on the leading pack.

Struggling for players, **GOBOWEN CELTIC'S** slump continued as they crashed 8-0 away to Chids Ercall in the Mercian Regional premier division.

Morda left on sidelines after call-off

MORDA United were left without any action in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one at the weekend when their clash away to Berriew reserves was postponed at the request of the hosts.

The Weston Road side are scheduled to make the short journey to Llanyrnnech on Saturday, with both sides currently on 10 points but fourth placed Morda have played one fewer game than their hosts.

Shannon sets sights on spot at Olympics



Shooting star Shannon Davies

HOT-SHOT Shannon Davies made it an unforgettable season in target shooting by firing her way to a hat-trick of wins.

Shannon, a year-12 student from Ellesmere College, competed in her first junior International match in which she landed a bronze in the 50m prone.

The youngster was also selected for the British Schools' team in the international against Denmark, helping Team GB to an overall win and posting the second highest score in the match.

Shannon's remarkable progress in top level sport was then crowned by her selection as part of the Senior GB ladies team to shoot against the USA in the Randle Match, in which she was the youngest competitor by nine years.

Not only did Team GB win this competition, but Shannon achieved the fourth highest score with 400 out of 400 and 29 perfect centres beating all the American teams scores.

A delighted Shannon said: "I started shooting as a hobby at school and with every session I noticed the improvement in my technique and accuracy. I want to see how good I could actually be and how far I can take the sport in a competitive environment."

To finish off a successful month of competition, the youngster also won the National junior championship for under-18s.

"My goal for the future is the 2018 Commonwealth Games and beyond that who knows, maybe the Olympics," she added.

Moreton Hall tennis aces in regional final

MORETON Hall School's under-14 AEGON tennis team served up more success by winning the Midlands Region division one knock-out event against Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen.

The team had previously beaten Wolverhampton Girls Grammar School to put them up against Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen whom they defeated by a convincing 5-1, which means they now progress through to the division one regional finals at Tipton Sports Academy.

The girls, who have now made it into the last 16 teams in the country, will face three schools in the regional event on November 17 and the winners of that stage will progress through to the national finals in December.

Meanwhile, both Moreton Hall's first and second teams were crowned North Schools Lacrosse champions after travelling to Queen Margaret's York to take part in the North Schools tournament.

The first team retained their trophy by winning all six of their matches against Harrogate, Queen Margaret's, Bolton, Birkenhead, Shrewsbury and Withington.

The second team also made it a successful defence of their title by achieving victories against Queen Margaret's, Harrogate Ladies College and Queen's School Chester.

Back-to-back wins for tennis team

BACK-TO-BACK wins took Oswestry Tennis Club's fourth team up to third place in the Shropshire Autumn Mixed Doubles League.

After two opening defeats, the team recorded two victories, first accounting for Hincock II 8-0 before winning 7-1 away to Baschurch II.

In yet another change to the line up with captain Linda Davies out due to injury, Amanda Coxhead stepped in from the fifth team to partner Craig Nurse who himself had just returned from injury.

In the other pairing against Hinstock, Carol Slater partnered Craig Southern for only his second foray into competitive tennis.

Both pairs got off to a good start in the first round rubbers by winning in straight sets 6-2, 6-2 and 6-2, 6-1 respectively.

The success continued into the reverse rubbers with Nurse and Coxhead despatching the opposing second pair for the loss of only one game 6-1, 6-0.

However, Slater and Southern were made to work hard with many deuce games before attaining their victory 6-4, 7-5 to earn Oswestry a maximum eight points.

Their second fixture of the week was away at Baschurch and in the first round rubbers, the first pair of Nurse and Coxhead took the first set against the opposing first pair 6-3 but then dropped the second set 5-7 before winning the break convincingly 1-0 (10-5).

The second pair of Southern and Slater also started well and had an opportunity to serve for the first set at 5-3 but their opposition fought back to

take the set to a tie break which they narrowly won 6-7 (5-7).

In the reverse rubbers, Nurse and Coxhead were again dominant, winning in straight sets 6-2, 6-4, while Southern and Slater made amends against the first pair by winning in straight sets 6-3, 6-4 to give their team a six to three sets win and achieving seven points.

Meanwhile, the club held its annual finals day at the weekend with three finals taking place with both club players and family members attending for support.

In the men's singles, Matt Grice retained his title with a two sets win over Gary Edwards.

The ladies single final saw a new champion when Clare Hann secured victory over Linda Clark in

COBRA rue missed chances in defeat

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

COBRA continue to languish in the lower reaches of rugby's North Wales League division one after falling to a fifth defeat in six outings with a 20-8 reverse at home to Llandudno.

Yet again, the Meifod side had enough of the game to have gained some reward, but failed to take their chances when they came along, while conceding a couple of poor tries themselves at the other end.

Lying third bottom, they face a tricky trip to Caernarfon on Saturday, before having a welcome two-week break that will give them the perfect chance to regroup.

They started well enough against Llandudno with a spell of early pressure, missed a penalty chance, but fell behind to a converted try, before a further penalty made it 10-0 to the visitors.

COBRA hit back when young centre Angus Twigg, on his first team debut, made a good break, before the ball was recycled for wing Sion Wyn Williams to cross for an unconverted score.

A penalty from winger Matthew Jones reduced the arrears to two points at the interval, but Llandudno scored a crucial second try after the break when capitalising on an overlap, the conversion being added to open up a 17-8 lead.

Advantage

That advantage was extended with a penalty before the Llanfair hosts enjoyed a good spell without reward, leaving them to reflect again on what might have been as their tough start to the season continued.

WELSHPOOL returned to winning ways with a 24-17 home success against Machynlleth in the North Two East in which they ran in four tries to claim a bonus point.

Looking to bounce back from their 25-20 defeat at home to Bangor University in the WRU Bowl the week before, Pool were slow to get into their stride in a scrappy first half before taking charge in the second period.

They fell behind to an early penalty from Iwan Jones, before getting their noses in front with an unconverted try just before half time when prop Tom Manuel broke from inside his own half to run down the line to score.

After the break, Pool took charge with other scores through centre Justin Haycock, a penalty try and No8 Ryan Goodwin, while fullback Tom Williams kicked a couple of conversions. Mach



COBRA winger and try scorer Sion Wyn Williams makes a break for the line in his side's defeat against Llandudno and (below) scrum time for the sides at Cae COBRA. Pics: Trevor Jones.



managed two tries themselves through prop Hedd Griffiths and second row Rob Mercer, both converted by Jones, to clinch a losing bonus point.

However, Welshpool were worthy winners with their

victory far more emphatic than the scoreline may suggest. Now sixth in the table, one place above Mach, they look to build on that result at home to Powys rivals Newtown on Saturday.

Llanrhaeadr book spot in fourth round

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

effort ruled out for a foul, but Llanrhaeadr held firm to seal an excellent win against strong opposition from the Welsh National League.

Despite leading at half time, CHURCHSTOKE crashed out 6-1 at home to Radnor Valley who staged a stirring fightback after the break.

Two goals apiece from Joey Price and Jack Wills, along with Callum Matthews and Geraint Lloyd, earned the visitors a convincing success.

Carno, despite not at their best, edged through 2-1 at Spar Mid Wales League division one rivals Llanidloes Town.

CHIRK AAA swept aside AFC Brynford 5-1, while Machynlleth kept their flag flying with a 2-1 passage at Tywyn Brynrcrug.

BERREW stayed hard on the heels of the Spar Mid Wales League division one leaders after prevailing 2-1 at one of their fellow challengers, Aberaeron.

The Rhiewsidars, lying in second spot, made light of a tricky surface to pull off a fine win after a penalty from Karl Sellaerts and an own goal. Vic-

tory kept Dave Jones' side four points off leaders Rhayader Town who needed a late winner from Lee Harley to overcome lowly MONTGOMERY 2-1 at the Weirglodd, Richard Powell getting the other.

WELSHPOOL's woes continue after their 3-1 home reverse to Knighton Town keeps them at the foot of the table. Mark Jones netted a brace for the visitors, Sam Williams getting the other.

Bow Street are looking in good shape, seeing off Hay St Mary's 3-0 to move up to third in the table.

Kerry are the new leaders of the Spar Mid Wales League division two on goal difference after winning a hard-fought affair 2-1 at Aberystwyth University, courtesy of an early penalty and free kick, both from Luke Mumford.

Lowly DYFFRYN BANW, who ended a run of four straight defeats with victory over Abermule the previous week, again showed their mettle by drawing 4-4 at leaders Builth Wells.

FOUR CROSSES, who now lie one place above, crashed 5-2 at home to Presteigne and Abermule were edged out 4-3 at Borth United.

LLANSANTFFRAID Village, lying sixth, succumbed 2-1 at Dolgellau, while lowly Penybont finished 2-2 at home to Newbridge.

The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

ARSCOTT
Captain's Plate Winner: S.Oakley 42pts; O.Sadd 41pts; A. Mullineux 37pts.

BRIDGNORTH
President's Cup: 1 J Ralph and T Merritt 62 nett, 2 S Fitzpatrick and A Legge 63 nett CB, 3 T Reeve and L Berryman 63 nett.
John Cooke Qualifier: 1 P Stoker and G Hughes 60 nett, 2 L Berryman and M Pratt 61 nett, 3 D Morgan and D Ashley 62 nett; Other qualifiers: G Baugh-Brown and D Lewis 64, A Shinnin and D Taylor 65, T Emery and C Martin 65, T Merritt and T Alford 65, J Sollars and Whalin 66.

Ladies' Medal 14 - Silver Division: Angela Hinton 88-12=76, Bronze Division: Anthea Baker 96-24=72, LGU Brooch: Anthea Baker 96-24=72.

Medal 15: 1 Jing Reade 107-34=73, 2 Helen Harvey 100-20=80, Stableford 10 Winner Alison Grove - 33pts

Stableford 11 - Silver Division: Vanessa Statham 37pts, Bronze Division: Jing Reade 33pts, Stableford 13: 1 Angela Hinton 33pts, 2 Jane Cook 33pts, Stableford 15: 1 Jing Reade 33pts, 2 Marilyn Radford 32pts, Stableford 16: 1 Alison Grove 36pts, 2 Carrie Lees 34pts on back 6 from Vanessa Statham.

Harvest Competition: 1 Jing Reade 36+33=69 on back nine, 2 Alison Grove 36+33=69

Foursomes Challenge Knockout: 1 Helen White & Emma Sirrell, 2 Bridget Kemp & Jayne Read.

Jean Davies Salver Knockout: 1 Alison Grove, 2 Rose Morgan, Committee Cup: Alison Grove 36pts.

HAWKSTONE PARK
Men's July Super Stableford Division 1: M Harrington 38pts; W Hollinshead 36pts; S Owen 36pts, Division 2: S Harris 41pts; N Brown 38pts; C Payne 35pts.

Men's Club Championship Finals 2016 Winner (36 Holes): N Chesters. Runner Up: S Smith

Ladies' Club Championship Finals 2016 Winner (18 Holes) Winner: L Goff. Runner Up: K Gleave.

October Medal: K Gleave nett 75; S Jones nett 75; V Jones & Roberts nett 77.

Seniors' Club Champion for 2016 Winner: N Chesters. Runner Up: S Rhodes.

HENILLE PARK
Ladies' AM-AM: B Jackson, A Roberts & S Lawson (Wychwood Park) 78pts; J Heath, L Taylor & J Morris (Church Stretton) 77pts; C Quirk, J Maiden & R Abbot 71pts. Longest Drive: S Edwards. Nearest the Pin: A Mountford.

Seniors' October Medal Division 1: A James nett 67; P Wilkinson nett 69; T Gleave nett 70. Division 2: D Jones nett 72; M Cunningham nett 72; C Parker nett 74.

HILL VALLEY
Anne Timperley Trophy (Emerald): S Lockett 101-22=79; C Ellwood 101-21=80; G Thomas 98-18=80.

93' Salver (Sapphire): G Thomas 88-18=70; J Wruszek 100-29=71; I Stiles 103-30=73.

September Stableford (Sapphire): J Wruszek 35pts (29); G Thomas 32pts (18); C Ellwood 28pts (21).

EWGA Medal October (Emerald): S Wynn 103-21=82; C Ellwood 104-21=83; G Thomas 101-18=83.

A J & B Minshall Cup Mixed (Emerald): J Williams & B Sierstema 74 on the back 9 from M Fowles & S Lockett also 74.

Christmas Greensomes Open (Emerald) 15 holes: S Wynn (Hill Valley) & S Pidcock-Jones (Brookfield) 27pts on back 9 from H Dinsdale & H Bell (Porthall) 27pts; C Brown & S Newman (Parth Aderne) 25pts.

LLANYMYNECH
Ladies' October Medal Division 1 Winner: J Line 81-12=69, Runner Up: R Lockyer 92-19=73, Division 2 Winner: A Garbett 97-23=74, Runner Up: J Gibson 101-24=77, Division 3 Winner: D Chadwick 110-30=80, Runner Up: R Beik 111-30=81.

Granny Bell Winner: A Garbett.

MARKET DRAYTON
Midweek Stableford: D Griffith (17); K Huntbach (23); D Orwell (19).

October Medal: P Clewes (18); S Fulcher (18); I Corcoran (6).

Ladies' October Medal 1: H Taylor (10); S Duthie (24); A Jinks (33).

Nine Hole Competition 1: H Challinor (10); V Huntbach (14); M Williamson (13).

October Medal 2: B Yendole (23) 76; J Barker (22) 77; H Taylor (10) 77.

Seniors' AM-AM Open Meeting: L Welch (17), P Owen (5) & 82 J Zulewsky (14); P Barnett (20), L Holman (16) & D Platt (13) D J Everton (14), P Rathbone (21) & D Reeves (17).

MILE END

Evergreen Trophy Winner: J Bennett 50-14=36, Runner Up: S Thomas 55-18=37.

Seniors' Schneider Trophy Winner: R Butler - 7, Runner Up: M Jones - 10.

October Stableford Division 1: T Rowlands 41pts; J Bradford 39pts; D Field 38pts, Division 2: W Murray 41pts; T Perks 39pts; B Lingard

Ifton bowlers hit jackpot in the Super Cup

IFTON'S Premier League bowlers were on a roll on finals day in the British Super Cup.

Members of the St Martins club formed part of the Esclusham team that hit the jackpot with victory in the £2,000 Arthur Land-sponsored eight-a-side 31-up knockout.

Their three-shot victory over Thongsbridge from Holmfirth in West Yorkshire in the final at Bellingham in Wigan came with a squad featuring Ifton bowlers Leighton, Kieran and Carl Roberts, Simon Tyler, Craig Griffiths, Darren Lacey, Dave 'Rocky' Jones and Brian Hayes.

After having a bye in the first round when their first round opponents did not show up, they went on to defeat Shropshire club Newport by 17 shots in the semi-final.



Cricketers' promotion confirmed

MONTGOMERY and WELSHPOOL have seen their promotion to division one of the Shropshire Cricket League confirmed in the new structure for the 2017 season.

The two clubs made it a Powys one-two in the second division last term, with Monty the runaway champions and Welshpool filling the other promotion spot as runners-up.

They will join Knockin & Kinnerley in the 12-team division, along with Bomere Heath, Forton and Shelton, who were all relegated from the premier division. The season starts on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

After a disappointing season, CAE GLAS were relegated from division two to division three, and the second string to the 2nd XI division three.

Twenty-two matches are again scheduled next season for all divisions except Sunday Two, where sides will again play 18 games.

There were no new applications for membership, while Saturday and Sunday cricket will continue to be played in separate divisions. The first League match will start on Saturday, April 29, 2017. Division placements:

Premier Div: Whitchurch (relegated from the Birmingham League), Worfield (relegated from the Birmingham League), Quatt, Wern, Madeley, Ludlow, Frankton, Broseley, Albrighton, St Georges, Newtown (promoted), Market Drayton (promoted).

Div One: Bomere Heath (relegated), Shelton (relegated), Forton (relegated), Wroxeter Grove, Cound, Knockin & Kinnerley, Condover, Beazon, Alberbury, Lilleshall, Montgomery (promoted), Welshpool (promoted).

Div Two: Ailscott (relegated), Pontesbury (relegated), Wellington III (relegated), Wheatston Aston, Press, Bishops Castle, Church Stretton, Ellesmere, Shrewsbury II, Willey, Shifnal II (promoted), Church Aston (promoted).

Div Three: Iscoyd & Fenna Barri (relegated), Tibberton (relegated), Cae Glas (relegated), Ludlow III, Harpers, Chelmarsh, Trysuli & Seisdon, Corvedale, Hodnet & Peplow, Calverhall, St Georges III (promoted), Acton Reynald (promoted).

Div Four: Much Wenlock (relegated), Harcourt (relegated), Llandiloos (relegated), Overton, Gulsfield, Bridgnorth III, Quayside, Hinstock, Coton Hall, Wroxeter Grove III, Oswestry III (from Sunday One), Ailscott 2 (from Reserve Three).

Div One 2nd XI: Whitchurch II (relegated from the Birmingham League), Worfield II (relegated from the Birmingham League), St Georges II Wern II, Knockin II, Quatt II, Frankton II, Alberbury II, Cound II, Madeley II, Shelton II (promoted), Wroxeter Grove II (promoted).

Div Two 2nd XI: Ludlow II (relegated), Beazon II (relegated), Wellington IV (relegated), Lilleshall II, Willey II, Bomere II, Montgomery II, Pontesbury II, Condover II, Iscoyd & Fenna II, Forton II, Albrighton II (promoted), M Drayton II (promoted), Broseley II (promoted), Newtown II (promoted), A Reynald II (promoted).

Div Three 2nd XI: Cae Glas II (relegated), Ellesmere II (relegated), Shifnal IV, Welshpool II, Bishops Castle II, Lilleshall IV, M Wenlock II, Corvedale II, St Georges IV, Quatt III (from Div Four), Beazon II (from Div Four), Ailscott III (from Div Four).

Sunday Div One: Wern III, Worfield III, Wellington V, Alberbury III, Knockin III, Cound III, Bomere Heath III, Sentinel III, Frankton III, Lilleshall III (promoted), Whitchurch III (promoted).

Sunday Div Two: Pontesbury III (relegated), Ludlow IV, M Drayton III, Wellington VI, Knockin IV, Oswestry IV, Madeley III, Bridgnorth IV, Madeley IV Shrewsbury IV (from Reserve Three).

Shropshire date at Morda Road

COUNTY cricket returns to Oswestry's Morda Road ground next season when Shropshire host Wales in the one-day MCCA Unicorns Knockout Trophy.

The 50-over game will be played on Sunday, May 14, and Shropshire will be looking to make progress in a competition they last won in 2010.

"It's the perfect fixture for us, and Shropshire will be looking to put up a good show on what has traditionally been a lucky ground for them," said Oswestry chairman Mike Robinson.

"That luck ran out last year when they lost to Cheshire, but let's hope that was a one-off blip."

IRN Cup opponents could be changed

LIVINGSTON –who are due to meet TNS in the quarter-final of the IRN-BRU Scottish Cup next month – could be thrown out of the competition after being charged with fielding an ineligible player in their 2-1 win at Crusaders.

Defender Alan Lithgow played the full 90 minutes in Livi's victory in the previous round in Belfast which set-up a home meeting against the in-form Saints.

But it has been reported to the SPFL that the

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

28-year-old played while under a Scottish FA suspension, having been sent off at East Fife on September 24.

Livingston have been requested to attend an SPFL hearing next Monday when their punishment could range from being given a warning to being ejected from the last eight.

Spartans and East Stirling have both been kicked out of the Scottish Cup in recent years for fielding ineligible players and the same offence by Dundee United in a Premiership game at Inverness last season saw the Tayside club docked three points and fined £30,000.

The West Lothian club are due to face TNS on Sunday, November, 13 live on S4C and BBC Alba, but Northern Irish side Crusaders – who lost to Livingston – could be reinstated.

TNS AIM FOR DOZEN WINS

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

BOSS Craig Harrison insists there will be no easing up as The New Saints look to make it 12 straight Dafabet Welsh Premier wins when struggling Newtown head to Park Hall on Sunday (3pm).

This weekend's encounter pits together the top and bottom sides in the league, with the high flying Saints overwhelming title favourites after extending their lead to 10 points with their 5-0 drubbing of Llandudno.

Newtown, by contrast, arrive on the back of a wretched run that sees them propping up the table with just one win in 11 league games.

However, they have proved troublesome opponents for TNS in the past, famously becoming the first visiting team to win a league match at Park Hall in over three years last March.

And Harrison – a contender for the vacant manager's job at Wrexham – will take nothing for granted as his side look to stretch their winning run to 14 games in all competitions by overcoming the lowly Robins.

"It's going to be a tough game. Newtown are going through a bad patch at the moment, so they'll be thinking what a place to come and kick start their season," he said.

"So we need to make sure there's no complacency on our parts, keep working hard and continue to show the hunger, drive and attitude that we have done all season."

Harrison admitted he was flattered to be linked with the vacant manager's job at National League side Wrexham who sacked boss Gary Mills last week following a poor run of results.

"It's always nice when your name is mentioned in connection with a manager's job as it shows you're doing a good job at the club you're at," he said.

Harrison, who has enjoyed a trophy laden spell at Park Hall since arriving from Airbus UK in December 2011, is third favourite with the bookmakers to land the job at the Racecourse, behind Macclesfield boss John Askey and Altrincham chief Jim Harvey.

Former TNS midfielder and recent Tranmere manager Gary Brabin is also among the contenders, along with current Wrexham caretaker boss Dean Keates.

Home comfort for Town at last



FC Oswestry Town keeper Richie Cowderoy punches clear against Silsden. Pic: Ian Jones.

FORTUNES continue to look up for FC Oswestry Town who secured their first home win in the North West Counties League division one after overcoming St Helens Town 3-2 in midweek.

Despite a couple of cup successes, this was their first league victory at Park Hall, and lifted Dan Stevens' men up to 10th in the table.

They had fallen behind to a 14th minute opener from Dale Korrie-Butler, who curled in his shot from the left of the box, but were back on terms on 34 when defender Andrew Webster

headed a Liam Molloy cross into his own net.

The hosts were in front on 73 minutes through Brendon Price's strike, before extending the margin courtesy of Oliver Jones after the St Helens defence had failed to clear.

Town had Jack Harris sent off for his second booking on 83 minutes, before the visitors pulled back a second goal six minutes into injury time through Anthony Whelan.

Buoyed by another win, the Oswestry side look to maintain the momentum when they host Bolton side Daisy Hill on Saturday.

Llanfair not hitting panic button yet

LLANFAIR United boss Rhys Stephens insists there's no panic after his side's 5-0 drubbing at Mold Alex in the Huws Gay Cymru Alliance.

United will look to steady the ship at home to Conwy Borough on Saturday, and Stephens is backing his troops to respond after a lacklustre show at Mold. "There's going to be no knee-jerk reaction, we haven't turned into a poor side because of this one result, but we can't afford to put in performances like this regularly," he said.

Llanfair remain clear of the basement zone in 11th place with 10 points from 10 games, but they are now just two points above the drop zone.

At the other end of the table, fourth placed GULSFIELD face a crunch clash at defending champions Caernarfon Town on Saturday. They make the trip without top scorer Adam Jenkins through suspension, while Mark Davies and Jake Cook are fitness doubts.

Luke Ogilvie has stepped down as WELSHPOOL manager – just five weeks after taking charge of the Spar Mid Wales League division one strugglers. The former Llanymynech boss has been replaced by the management team of Chris Roberts and Neil Pryce, who will take charge of Friday night's important home clash with Llanidloes Town.

Villagers get home comforts in Trophy

LLANRHAeadr have been handed a home tie in the fourth round of the FAW Trophy after being paired with Brecon Corries.

The villagers will be happy to be on their own surrounds, after having to travel to Gwynedd for the previous round when winning 3-2 at Llanuwchllyn thanks to two second half goals from Iwan Matthews.

Their Brecon visitors are having a modest season in the South Wales Alliance premier division were they currently lie in 13th spot.

In other ties, all to be played on Saturday, November 19, Carno visit Penycae, while Chirk AAA are also on the road to Radnor Valley.

It's back to Spar Mid Wales League division one action for Llanrhaeadr on Saturday with a trip to Radnor Valley, with Chris Aitken out after pulling a hamstring in last weekend's Trophy win.

Meanwhile, Welshpool will be looking for much needed points when they host fellow strugglers Llanidloes Town on

Eagles looking for elusive first win

STILL looking for their first win, Oswestry's rugby players will be hoping for a change of fortunes in the South Lancs and Cheshire One when they travel to Sefton on Saturday.

They went down 46-21 in the Wirral against Anselmians last weekend, and they hit the road to Sefton on Saturday, with their Liverpool hosts, despite lying third from bottom, having picked up a couple of wins in recent weeks following a poor start to their campaign.

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